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Musk's xAI Releases Grok 4.5, Billed As An Opus-Class Model

Elon Musk's AI company released Grok 4.5 on July 8, describing it as an Opus-class model for coding and knowledge...

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SPORTS

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World number one Jannik Sinner defended his Wimbledon title on Centre Court, recovering from a lost opening set to beat...

NATIONAL

Supreme Court Orders Bar Council To Audit Advocate Disciplinary System

The Supreme Court directed the Bar Council of India to audit its disciplinary machinery for advocates and explore a national

REGIONAL

LG Sinha Urges J&K Youth To Dream Big At Lal Ded Awards

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called on the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to dream big and draw on the region's heritage, speaking at the Lal Ded Literature Awards in Srinagar.

SRINAGAR, July 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday urged the youth of

REGIONAL

Landslide Halts Vaishno Devi Battery Car Service Near Himkoti in Reasi

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



A rain-triggered landslide near Himkoti forced a temporary suspension of the battery car service on the Vaishno Devi track in Reasi on Wednesday evening, though the yatra continued via the old route.

KATRA, July 8: A landslide triggered by heavy rain struck the track leading to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine near Himkoti on Wednesday evening, forcing...

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Deputy CM Reviews Katra Expressway Works, Meets Injured Soldier in Udhampur



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Omar Announces Delhi Protest Over Delay In Statehood Restoration

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced a National Conference protest in Delhi on July 20 over the delay in restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the Centre had been given enough time.

JAMMU, July 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday announced that the National Conference would stage a protest in Delhi on July...

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Lashkar Commander Killed As Shopian Encounter Ends After Five Days

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander was killed in Shopian as a five-day cordon and search operation concluded, with security forces recovering arms and ammunition from the encounter site.

SHOPIAN, July 8: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander identified as Zakir Ganai was killed on Wednesday as a five-day anti-terror operation in south...

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NMC Approves 50 Additional MBBS Seats for GMC Jammu – Intake Rises to 250 from 2026-27; Both GMC Jammu & GMC Srinagar Now at 250 Seats Each

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



The National Medical Commission issued a Letter of Permission on July 12 approving 50 additional MBBS seats for Government Medical College Jammu, raising its annual intake from 200...

Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu has received approval from the National Medical Commission (NMC) to increase its MBBS intake by 50 seats, taking its annual admission capacity from 200 to 250 students from the 2026–27 academic session.

The Letter of Permission (LoP) was issued by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of the National Medical Commission on July 12, while the Health and Medical Education Department announced the development on July 13, describing it as a significant milestone for medical education in Jammu and Kashmir.

Confirming the development, GMC Jammu Principal Dr. Ashutosh termed the approval a historic achievement for the institution. Affiliated with the University of Jammu, the college will now admit 250 MBBS students annually, placing it on par with Government Medical College Srinagar, which also received approval for an additional 50 seats earlier this month.

Officials said the expansion has been made possible by the college's extensive healthcare infrastructure. GMC Jammu is associated with several major hospitals, including Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital, the Super Speciality Hospital, the Chest Diseases Hospital and the Psychiatric

Hospital, together providing nearly 2,800 teaching beds for clinical training.

As per the existing admission policy, 85 per cent of the MBBS seats are reserved for candidates from Jammu and Kashmir, while the remaining 15 per cent are filled through the All India Quota.

The National Medical Commission has attached several conditions to the approval, requiring the institution to maintain Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance systems, CCTV surveillance and a functional Hospital Management Information System (HMIS). The college has also been directed to make relevant records and digital data available to the Commission whenever required.

The increase in seats is expected to strengthen medical education in the Union Territory by creating more opportunities for local students and reducing the need to seek admissions outside Jammu and Kashmir. Officials also believe the move will contribute to addressing the shortage of doctors, particularly in rural and underserved areas, by increasing the number of medical graduates entering the healthcare system each year.

The approval forms part of broader efforts to expand healthcare infrastructure and enhance the availability of qualified medical professionals across Jammu and Kashmir.



HEALTH

J&K Orders Fresh Inquiry Into GMC Anantnag Cardiac Procedures

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SRINAGAR, July 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered a fresh high-level inquiry into alleged irregularities in cardiac procedures at Government Medical College, Anantnag, constituting a four-member expert panel to examine the charges. Under a government order issued on July 9, the Health and Medical Education Department appointed a committee headed by Prof. Khalid Mohi-ud-Din of GMC Srinagar, with faculty members from GMC Jammu and the State Health Agency's nodal officer. The panel has been given fifteen days to submit its findings. The inquiry centres on a cardiologist accused of data falsification and financial irregularities, including procedures allegedly uploaded under incorrect package codes and invasive interventions performed without adequate clinical justification. Beneficiaries were reportedly charged despite guarantees under the cashless health scheme. The committee has been tasked with reviewing medical records, billing documents and pacemaker implantation data, and assessing whether the interventions conformed to national clinical guidelines and package norms. It will also examine alleged violations of procurement protocols. The doctor at the centre of the case has maintained that the procedures were medically appropriate and in line with standard cardiology practice. The order marks a renewed effort to resolve a controversy that has dogged the hospital in recent months.



INTERNATIONAL

ADB Trims Pakistan Growth Forecast To 3.7pc On Energy Costs

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

ISLAMABAD, July 9: The Asian Development Bank has trimmed Pakistan's economic growth forecast for the coming fiscal year to 3.7 percent, citing higher energy costs and mounting pressure on remittances, in its July 2026 Asian Development Outlook. Preliminary data show Pakistan's economy grew by 3.7 percent in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, supported by a rebound in industry and services alongside modest gains in agriculture, the Manila-based lender said. The bank revised its inflation projection for FY2027 sharply higher to 8.3 percent, blaming persistent adverse spillover from the conflict in the Middle East, which has kept global fuel prices elevated. Inflation for the fiscal year just ended was put at 7.2 percent on rising food and energy costs. The downgrade underscores the fragility of Pakistan's recovery as it navigates an International Monetary Fund programme and seeks to rebuild foreign reserves. The renewed turmoil in the Strait of Hormuz threatens to push its import bill higher still. Regionally, the ADB lowered its growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.9 percent for 2026, down from 5.5 percent last year, reflecting energy shocks and softer global demand.

REGIONAL

Omar Abdullah Scales Graveyard Gate To Mark Martyrs' Day

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



SRINAGAR, July 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday climbed over the locked gate of the Naqshband Sahib martyrs' graveyard in Srinagar's old city to offer prayers on Martyrs' Day, after the

administration sealed access to the site. The area within a one-kilometre radius of the graveyard had been barricaded with concertina wire, plastic barriers and GI sheets. Abdullah, accompanied by party colleagues and his security detail, entered the compound after scaling the main gate, forcing police to eventually unlock it. The Chief Minister accused the police administration of placing him and other National Conference leaders under house arrest to prevent them from paying tributes. He shared video footage in which he said he was manhandled by personnel while attempting to reach the site. Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti also alleged that party members had been confined to their residences on the eve of the observance. Martyrs' Day commemorates the 22 people killed by Dogra forces outside Srinagar's central jail on July 13, 1931. The day was dropped from the official holiday calendar after 2019.

REGIONAL

Traditional Bull Race, Laiv Mark Start of Paddy Season in Rajouri

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



RAJOURI, July 9: A traditional Laiv and bull race drew a large gathering of spectators at Chapriya in Rajouri district on Thursday, marking the start of the

REGIONAL

Poonch Taekwondo Club Trek Spreads Anti-Drug, Fitness Message

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



More than 100 taekwondo players and residents joined a seven-kilometre trek in Poonch on Saturday, organised under a drug-free society campaign by the Poonch Taekwondo Club and the...

POONCH, July 12: More than 100 taekwondo players, along with coaches, national referees, parents and local residents, took part in a trekking event in Poonch on Saturday, organised by the Poonch Taekwondo Club in collaboration with the MY Bharat Kendra Poonch and the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Poonch. The trek was held under the theme "Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan J&K and Youth Engagement" and carried the message "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Sports." Organisers said the activity was aimed at promoting fitness, healthy living and a drug-free society among young people in the district. The event was flagged off

by Dr Ajay Sharma, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Poonch. Also present were Surjan Singh, Dr Puneet Kar and Rajinder Singh, the taekwondo coach and founder of the sport in the district. Participants covered a distance of around seven kilometres, starting from the Poonch Taekwondo Club and moving along the Shiv Khori track before returning to the club through the surrounding mountainous terrain. Organisers said such activities help build discipline and confidence among youth while drawing them towards sports and away from substance abuse.

REGIONAL

New Army Chief Gen Dhiraj Seth Completes Maiden J&K Visit with LoC Review in Poonch & Rajouri; Briefed on Anti-Infiltration Grid, Zero-Tolerance on LoC

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth concluded his maiden three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on July 9 with an operational review of forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and Rajouri districts. The visit focused on assessing the security situation and operational preparedness in one of the country's most strategically significant border regions.

Accompanied by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps and the GOC of Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, General Seth visited forward positions in Poonch and Thanamandi, where he interacted with troops and reviewed the deployment of forces along the LoC.

At the Poonch Brigade headquarters, the Army Chief received a detailed briefing on the prevailing security environment, troop deployment, and the operational readiness of units stationed in the sector. Senior commanders also briefed him on the current threat perception arising from infiltration attempts sponsored from across the border.

The review included an assessment of the Anti-Infiltration Grid, which integrates surveillance technology, physical barriers, intelligence gathering and ground patrols to prevent infiltration across the Line of Control. Military officials informed the Army Chief that recent infiltration attempts had been successfully thwarted, with infiltrators either neutralised or forced to retreat before entering Indian territory.

The briefing also highlighted continued attempts by the Pakistan Army to position militants in forward areas near the Line of Control with the objective of facilitating future infiltration attempts whenever opportunities arise.

The visit to Poonch and Rajouri marked the final phase of General Seth's comprehensive tour of Jammu and Kashmir, which began on July 7 with security reviews at the 15 Corps headquarters in Srinagar and meetings with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. On July 8, he reviewed operational preparedness at the Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur and the 16 Corps headquarters in Nagrota before proceeding to the forward areas on the final day of his visit.

General Seth also visited Sunderbani and interacted with soldiers deployed in the border areas, commending them for their professionalism, vigilance and

commitment to safeguarding the nation's frontiers.

The visit underscored the strategic importance of the Pir Panjal region and reaffirmed the Army's continued focus on maintaining a robust counter-infiltration posture along the Line of Control amid evolving security challenges.

REGIONAL

Amarnath Yatra Crosses Two Lakh Pilgrims In Just Eight Days

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



SRINAGAR, July 11: The ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed the two-lakh pilgrim mark within just eight days of its commencement, officials said, describing the pace of turnout as among the fastest in recent years. A total of 2,01,008 pilgrims had paid obeisance at the cave shrine by the eighth day of darshan, which began on July 3 from the twin tracks of Baltal in Ganderbal and Pahalgam in Anantnag. On Friday alone, over 29,000 devotees visited the shrine. A fresh batch of 8,796 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the Valley, taking the total number of



REGIONAL

Heavy Rainfall Lashes Rajouri on July 10, Disrupts Normal Life; A Day Earlier, Traditional Bull Race & Laiv Festival at Chapriya Celebrates Paddy Season Amid Festive Fervour

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

Rajouri district experienced two contrasting developments within a span of 24 hours, with the Pir Panjal region first celebrating its rich agrarian traditions before heavy rainfall disrupted normal life across the district.

On July 9, the annual traditional Laiv ceremony and Bull Race were organised in the Chapriya area of Rajouri by retired Executive Engineer of the Power Development Department, Ch. Munshi Khan, on his agricultural land. The event attracted a large gathering of farmers, residents and visitors from different parts of Rajouri and neighbouring Poonch district.

The celebrations began with the traditional Laiv ceremony, which marks the commencement of the paddy transplantation season. The ritual, in which farmers collectively sow paddy seedlings, reflects the strong agricultural heritage of the Pir Panjal region and symbolises community participation in the farming season.

The highlight of the event was the traditional Bull Race, where participants from different areas showcased their bulls in a competition of strength, speed and endurance. The race drew enthusiastic crowds, with spectators cheering throughout the contest, creating a festive atmosphere across the paddy fields.

Participants and local residents described the event as an important cultural tradition that celebrates the agricultural



REGIONAL

DC Poonch Chairs Comprehensive Review of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra Preparations at Mandi; Security, Sanitation, Medical & Traffic Arrangements Finalised

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

The district administration of Poonch has begun comprehensive preparations for the annual Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, with Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma chairing a high-level coordination meeting at the Temple Complex Hall in Mandi on July 12. The meeting focused on ensuring the smooth, safe and well-organised conduct of the pilgrimage scheduled to begin next month.

Located about 22 kilometres from Poonch town, the Shri Budha Amarnath Temple is one of the region's most revered Hindu shrines. According to religious tradition, the site is associated with Lord Shiva's narration of the Amar Katha to Goddess Parvati, giving it significant spiritual importance among devotees.

The meeting was attended by Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, who stressed the need to address shortcomings observed during previous editions of the Yatra to provide a better experience for the large number of pilgrims expected this year.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat assured participants that comprehensive security arrangements would be put in place for the duration of the pilgrimage. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the administration to ensure the peaceful and successful conduct of the event.

REGIONAL

Widespread Thundershowers Lash J&K on July 11; MeT Issues Flash Flood & Landslide Alert for Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal Range Through July 12

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



Widespread rain and thundershowers swept across Jammu and Kashmir on the evening of July 11, impacting districts from Kupwara and Baramulla in north Kashmir to Ramban, Reasi, Doda,...

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed widespread rainfall and intense thundershowers on the evening of July 11 as monsoon activity strengthened across the Union Territory, bringing showers to both the Kashmir Valley and several districts of the Jammu division.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar issued a weather advisory warning of the possibility of flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas. Districts identified as particularly susceptible included Kupwara, Baramulla and Budgam in Kashmir, along with Ramban, Reasi, Doda, Batote and Udhampur in the Jammu division.

According to the advisory, several areas experienced brief but intense spells of rain accompanied by thunderstorms. Residents were advised to avoid rivers, nallahs, streams and landslide-prone locations until weather conditions improved.

The weather office forecast the continuation of rainfall and thunderstorm activity on July 12, with many parts of the Union Territory expected to receive showers. Isolated heavy rainfall and intense precipitation were predicted, particularly across the Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal region of the Jammu division.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that Jammu city recorded the highest maximum temperature in the Union Territory at 34.4 degrees Celsius on July 12, which was around five degrees below the seasonal average due to persistent cloud cover and rainfall. In the Kashmir Valley, Qazigund registered a maximum temperature of 30.6 degrees Celsius.

Among the cooler locations, Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of 11.0 degrees Celsius, while Bhadarwah in the Jammu division registered a minimum of 17.4 degrees Celsius.

Looking ahead, the Meteorological Centre has forecast generally hot and humid conditions between July 13 and July 17, accompanied by scattered rain and thundershowers, especially in parts of the Jammu division. Another significant spell of rainfall is expected to affect the Union Territory between July 18 and July 20.

Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant, monitor official weather advisories and avoid unnecessary travel in vulnerable areas during periods of heavy rainfall as precautionary measures remain in place.



REGIONAL

J&K Police Destroys Wild Cannabis in Baramulla and Sopore in Fresh Nasha Mukt Abhiyaan Drive; Joint Revenue & Excise Teams Deployed

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

The Jammu and Kashmir Police continued to strengthen their *Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan* with a coordinated drive to destroy wild cannabis plantations in Baramulla district on July 12. Simultaneous operations were carried out in Village Noorkhah within Baramulla town and in Rohama area of Sopore as part of the ongoing campaign against narcotics.

In Noorkhah, police personnel identified naturally grown wild cannabis along roadsides and in publicly accessible areas before destroying the plants on the spot. Officials said the operation was aimed not only at eliminating a potential source of narcotic substances but also at reinforcing public awareness about the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards drug cultivation and abuse.

A similar operation was conducted in Rohama, Sopore, where a joint team comprising officials from the Police, Revenue Department and Excise Department carried out the eradication drive. Authorities said the multi-department initiative reflects a coordinated approach to tackling the drug menace through enforcement as well as administrative cooperation.

Following the operation, the Jammu and Kashmir Police reiterated their commitment to combating drug abuse through sustained enforcement, public awareness and community participation. Citizens were encouraged to report any information regarding illegal cultivation of cannabis, narcotics trafficking or substance



REGIONAL

Historic Governance Reform: Centre to Set Up Hill Councils in All 7 Ladakh Districts; Article 371 UT-Level Body Under Consultation

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

The Centre has approved the establishment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) in all seven districts of the Union Territory, marking a significant step towards expanding democratic decentralisation and strengthening local self-governance in Ladakh. The announcement was made by Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra during a press conference in Leh on July 13. He described the decision as a major milestone in enhancing grassroots governance following Ladakh's reorganisation as a Union Territory in 2019. Until now, elected Hill Councils functioned only in Leh and Kargil. The Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council was constituted in 1995, followed by the Kargil Council in 2003. Each council comprises 30 members, including 26 elected representatives and four nominated members. With the latest decision, the five newly created districts —Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass—will also have elected Hill Councils. These districts, which became operational in April 2026, previously lacked similar representative institutions. According to the administration, the new councils will enjoy the same statutory powers as those in Leh and Kargil under the LAHDC Act. These include authority over land-related matters, district cadre recruitment and promotions, management of a dedicated Council Fund, and the power to levy certain local taxes and fees. Chief Secretary Kundra also disclosed that discussions are underway with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the creation of a customised governance framework for Ladakh under

REGIONAL

Gulshan Books Kashmir Conferred Lal Ded Literary Award 2026; LG Sinha Urges J&K Youth to Fuse Heritage with Innovation at Tagore Hall Ceremony

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

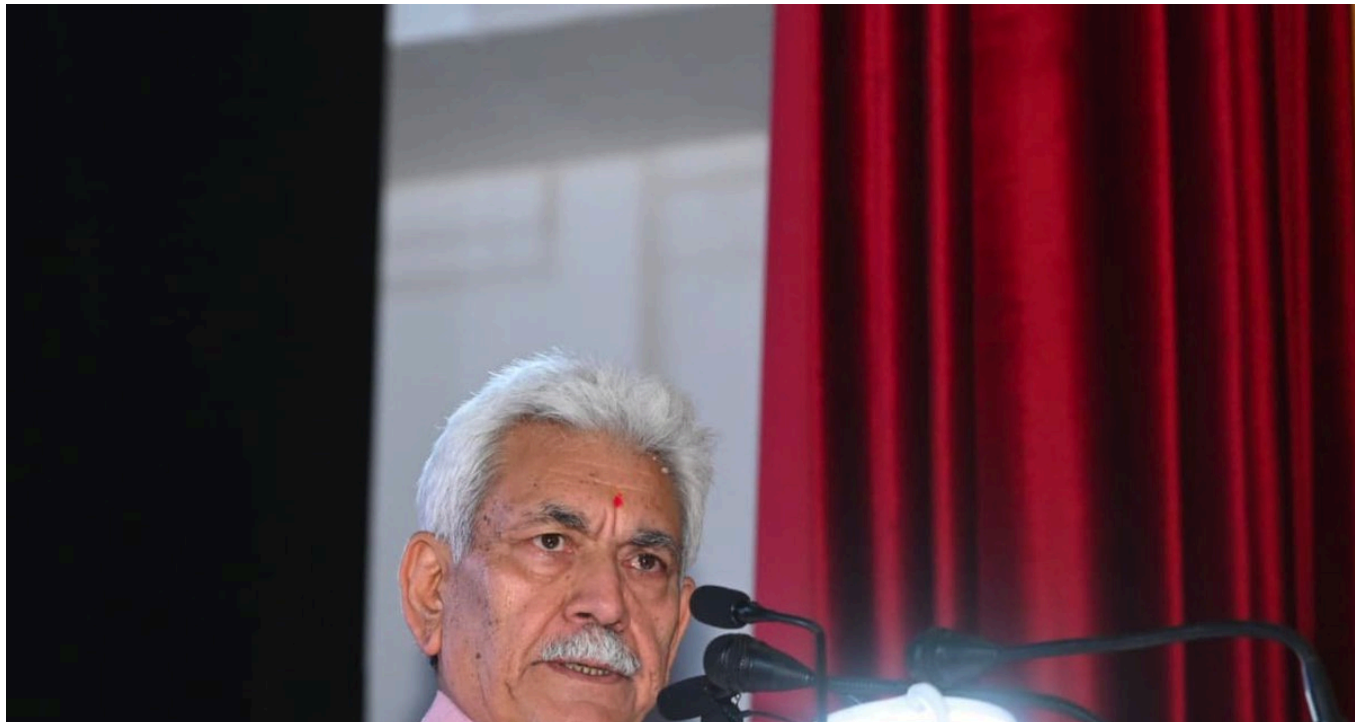


Gulshan Books Kashmir was conferred the category of *Literary Excellence and Publishing* during a ceremony held at Srinagar's historic Tagore Hall on July 12. The award, regarded as one of the region's

REGIONAL

Gulshan Books Kashmir Conferred Lal Ded Literary Award 2026; LG Sinha Urges J&K Youth to Fuse Heritage with Innovation at Tagore Hall Ceremony

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



At a grand literary ceremony at Tagore Hall, Srinagar on July 12, Gulshan Books Kashmir — the Valley's leading bookstore chain and publishing house — was conferred the Lal Ded Lite...

Gulshan Books Kashmir was conferred the **Lal Ded Literary Award 2026** in the category of **Literary Excellence and Publishing** during a ceremony held at Srinagar's historic Tagore Hall on July 12. The award, regarded as one of the region's most prestigious literary honours, was presented by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to Gulshan Books Chairman Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad.

The event brought together writers, scholars, publishers, policymakers and prominent cultural personalities to celebrate contributions to Jammu and Kashmir's literary and intellectual landscape.

Over the years, Gulshan Books has emerged as the Valley's largest bookstore and publishing house, with an extensive catalogue covering Kashmiri literature, history, culture and political thought. The institution has also played a significant role in making international academic publications accessible to students, researchers and readers across the region. The award recognised its longstanding efforts in promoting literature and preserving Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and intellectual heritage.

The ceremony also marked the launch of author Dr. Vaidehi Taman's latest book, **Lal Ded – The Mother of Kashmir**, a biographical work exploring the life and teachings of the

14th-century mystic poetess whose **vakhs** continue to influence the region's spiritual and cultural traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to draw inspiration from the region's rich cultural legacy while striving to build a progressive future. He highlighted India's enduring spiritual, scientific and cultural traditions and called upon young people to combine heritage with innovation in contributing to the development of a self-reliant Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor also stated that the proposal to establish a museum dedicated to eminent personalities such as Lal Ded would be considered, recognising their lasting contribution to the cultural identity of Kashmir.

In a related development, on July 13, Ravinder Pandita, Chairman of the Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, was honoured with the Lal Ded National Literary Award for his efforts towards preserving Kashmir's religious and cultural heritage.

The awards highlighted the continued emphasis on promoting literature, scholarship and cultural preservation in Jammu and Kashmir while recognising individuals and institutions dedicated to safeguarding the region's rich intellectual traditions.



REGIONAL

Triple Cloudbursts Batter Anantnag in 48 Hours; 79 Water Supply Schemes Damaged, Paddy Fields & Apple Orchards Destroyed, Hotels Inundated at Pahalgam

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

Anantnag district in south Kashmir witnessed widespread destruction after a series of cloudbursts triggered flash floods across several areas between the night of July 11 and July 12. The extreme weather events affected residential localities, agricultural land, tourist infrastructure and essential public utilities, prompting emergency response measures by the district administration. The most severe cloudburst occurred near Nala Chotihall in the Chittergul area on the evening of July 12. Torrential rainfall diverted a mountain stream into nearby paddy fields and apple orchards, inundating residential homes and forcing families to evacuate as floodwaters rapidly entered the area. Local residents reported extensive damage to crops, orchards and household property and appealed to the administration for immediate assessment and financial assistance. On the same night, separate cloudbursts were reported from Shangus and the Overa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Pahalgam region. In Shangus, the swollen Aaripath stream overflowed into adjoining agricultural fields, while the surge in the Overa Nallah flooded at least six hotels located along the stream in Pahalgam. Authorities confirmed that all tourists were evacuated safely and no casualties were reported. As restoration work continued, the full extent of the damage became evident. The Jal Shakti Department reported that 79 water supply schemes spread across four sub-divisions of Anantnag district had been affected. Bijbehara sub-division suffered the highest impact, with 45 schemes damaged, including



REGIONAL

EOW, ANTF Destroy Seized Narcotics At IGC Lassipora Incinerator In Pulwama

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

LASSIPORA, July 9: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the J&K Crime Branch, along with the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), destroyed a consignment of seized narcotics at the incinerator at the Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), Lassipora, in Pulwama on Wednesday. The contraband, comprising charas, ganja and psychotropic tablets seized in various anti-narcotics operations, was destroyed through a scientific, environmentally compliant incineration process carried out under court orders, officials said. The disposal was overseen by a Drug Disposal Committee headed by Senior Superintendent of Police, EOW Kashmir, Abdul Waheed Shah. Deputy Superintendent of Police, ANTF, Kubra Nazir, and Senior Prosecuting Officer Abdul Bari were also present. Officials framed the destruction as part of the wider **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan** and the ongoing 100-day drive against drug abuse in the Valley. They said timely disposal of seized drugs, once legal formalities are complete, prevents pilferage and closes the loop on trafficking cases. Police have stepped up both enforcement and awareness work in Pulwama in recent weeks, combining arrests of peddlers with outreach in schools and villages to steer young people away from addiction.

REGIONAL

ADDC Baramulla Wraps Two-Day Gulmarg Tour, Reviews Development Works And Schemes

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



GULMARG, July 9: A two-day tour of the Gulmarg sub-division by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika,

concluded on Thursday with a wide-ranging review of development works, welfare schemes and key infrastructure projects across the resort belt. Hazarika, accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gulmarg, and officers from the agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and tourism departments, inspected progress at several sites on the ground. At Tangmarg he visited an apiculture unit and a trout farm set up under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The ADDC directed officials to keep pace with project timelines and to ensure that centrally and UT-sponsored schemes reached intended beneficiaries without delay. He stressed that Gulmarg's standing as a premier tourist destination hinged on clean surroundings, reliable civic services and well-maintained approach roads. Departmental heads briefed him on the status of ongoing works and constraints in the field. Hazarika asked for regular inspections and closer coordination between line

departments. The review comes as the administration weighs traffic-management measures for the crowded resort, including a proposed odd-even vehicle system that stakeholders say needs wider consultation before it is enforced.

NATIONAL

India, Australia Seal Landmark Defence Pact At Melbourne Summit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



Modi and Albanese signed a new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation at the third annual summit in Melbourne, deepening Indo-Pacific ties across maritime, cyber and...

MELBOURNE, July 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on Friday signed a new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, the centrepiece of the third India-Australia Annual Summit held in Melbourne. The declaration replaces the 2009 security cooperation framework and commits the two countries to deeper collaboration across defence, maritime security, cyber technologies, counterterrorism and critical supply chains. Both leaders described the step as a natural progression of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The summit produced 19 bilateral outcomes. The leaders welcomed the establishment of an Annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue and

launched a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap, with Australia's Maritime Border Command and the Indian Coast Guard signing a memorandum of understanding. Beyond defence, the two sides finalised agreements on uranium supply for civilian nuclear energy, critical minerals and cyber cooperation. Albanese called India a top-tier security partner. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open and stable Indo-Pacific, backing regional institutions including ASEAN, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Quad, and stressing peaceful settlement of disputes under international law.

NATIONAL

Child Abuse Must Be Reported Without Private Verification, Rules Supreme Court

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



NEW DELHI, July 9: The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that a school official who receives a direct complaint of sexual assault from a child cannot escape the duty to report it by first conducting a private verification. The court held that information received directly from a child victim capable of communicating amounts to knowledge under Section 19 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, triggering the mandatory duty to report the matter to authorities. Setting aside the discharge of a school headmistress, the bench said her decision to examine the child herself, question the accused and monitor the situation for days, instead of reporting the matter, defeated the very purpose of the law. Any inquiry into whether an incident actually occurred must follow reporting, not precede it, the court said, warning that a contrary approach would let those in

positions of trust suppress complaints. Failure to report under Section 19 attracts criminal liability under Section 21 of the Act, punishable with imprisonment of up to six months, a fine, or both. The court revived the case against the official for trial.

NATIONAL

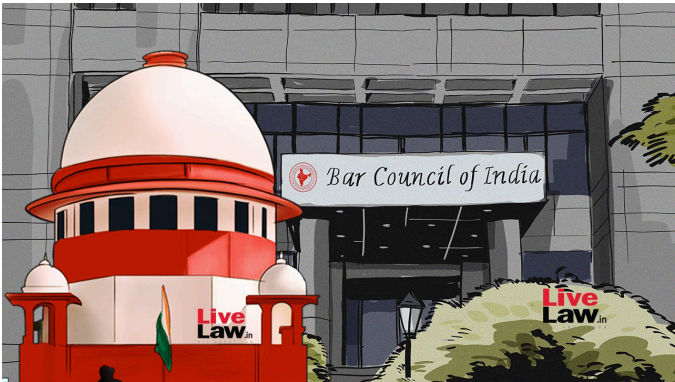
Retail Inflation Climbs To 4.38% In June, Breaches RBI Target

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



NEW DELHI, July 13: India's retail inflation accelerated to 4.38% in June, official data showed on Monday, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target for the first time in more than a year. The reading, released by the National Statistics Office, was up from 3.93% in May and exceeded most market forecasts. It remained within the central bank's 2 to 6 per cent tolerance band, but the move further above the target midpoint drew close attention from economists. Food inflation, measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, rose to 5.32%. Rural inflation stood at 4.74%, higher than the 3.92% recorded in urban

areas. Analysts said the pickup, driven partly by food and fuel pressures, could narrow the room for further monetary easing after the RBI's earlier rate cuts this cycle. Some economists warned of a possible shift towards a tighter stance if the trend persists. The central bank has flagged the progress of the monsoon and global commodity prices as key variables that will shape the inflation trajectory in the coming months, keeping policymakers watchful of price pressures.



NATIONAL

Supreme Court Orders Bar Council To Audit Advocate Disciplinary System

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 8: The Supreme Court directed the Bar Council of India to conduct a comprehensive performance audit of the disciplinary mechanisms run by it and the state bar councils, stressing greater accountability in the legal profession. The direction came in a judgment holding that allegations of professional negligence or misconduct by an advocate fall within the exclusive disciplinary jurisdiction of the bar councils under the Advocates Act, 1961, and cannot be decided by outside bodies. A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe asked the council to set up a committee to review how complaints against lawyers are handled and how quickly they are disposed of, given long-standing concerns over pendency. The court also asked the council to develop a proposal for a National Legal Academy, bringing together senior and junior lawyers and institutional experts to strengthen continuing legal education and professional standards. The Bar Council said it would constitute the required committees to implement the verdict, which lawyers welcomed as a push towards reform and self-regulation. The court listed the matter for further directions later in the year.



NATIONAL

Supreme Court Says Citizenship Must Be Decided Through Fair Process

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 13: The Supreme Court on Monday set aside a batch of Gauhati High Court judgments that had upheld the declaration of 27 people as foreigners, holding that citizenship and foreigner status must be determined through a fair, lawful and reasonable process. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed the appeals and remanded the cases to the concerned Foreigners Tribunals in Assam for fresh adjudication. The court observed that questions of citizenship carry profound constitutional significance. The bench directed the tribunals to decide the matters afresh, uninfluenced by earlier observations made by the High Court or the tribunals. It said the individuals must be given a proper opportunity to present their documents and be heard. The court acknowledged the government's legitimate interest in preventing misuse of the citizenship process, but said this could not come at the cost of a fair hearing in cases with life-altering consequences. The ruling comes amid continuing scrutiny of the functioning of Foreigners Tribunals in Assam and the standards they apply while weighing the documentary evidence submitted by those whose nationality is questioned.

NATIONAL

Modi Visits New Zealand After Four Decades, Anchors Free Trade Deal

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



In the first visit by an Indian premier to New Zealand in 40 years, Modi and Christopher Luxon deepened trade and security ties anchored on a newly concluded free trade agreement.

AUCKLAND, July 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was welcomed in Auckland on Saturday for the first visit by an Indian leader to New Zealand in four decades, as the two nations moved to deepen trade, investment and security cooperation. Modi held delegation-level talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, with the recently concluded India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement at the centre of discussions. The pact is expected to sharply expand two-way commerce over the coming decade. Wellington pledged significant long-term investment in India, while both

sides set a target to raise bilateral trade substantially by 2030. The agreement widens cooperation in agriculture, food technology and skills mobility, including a pathway for thousands of skilled Indian workers to take up jobs in New Zealand each year. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen collaboration in defence, education and space, elevating the relationship to a closer strategic footing. Modi addressed a large gathering of the Indian diaspora at an Auckland arena, framing the visit as the closing of a long gap in high-level engagement between the two Indo-Pacific democracies.



NATIONAL

Cloudbursts And Flash Floods Batter Himachal, Roads And Crops Damaged

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SHIMLA, July 9: A fresh spell of cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides battered several districts of Himachal Pradesh, killing a woman in Mandi and disrupting road and power networks across the hill state. Three cloudburst incidents were reported in Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba, according to the State Disaster Management Authority. In Lahaul-Spiti, flash floods damaged standing crops, blocked a link road and pushed debris onto the Manali-Leh National Highway, forcing its closure. Another cloudburst struck the Saho area of Chamba, damaging apple orchards, washing away a stretch of road and sweeping off footbridges. The Shimla-Mataur National Highway remained shut after a major landslide near the Bilaspur-Solan border. Authorities said dozens of roads were closed, scores of electricity transformers went out of service and drinking water supply was hit in many areas following incessant rain. Several districts recorded rainfall far above normal for the period. Officials urged residents and tourists to avoid vulnerable stretches as the weather office forecast more heavy rain, warning of continued risk of flash floods and slope failures in the higher reaches.

NATIONAL

Maharashtra Monsoon Toll Mounts As Rains Batter Pune, Mumbai Belt

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



MUMBAI, July 9: The death toll from this year's monsoon in Maharashtra has climbed past 60 since the start of June, state officials said, as heavy rain continued to batter Pune district and the wider Mumbai-Pune belt. Fresh rain-related deaths were reported in Pune, where two people died after their house was buried under debris in a landslide in Maval, and another was swept away on a flooded road in Khed. Wall collapses and lightning strikes accounted for the largest share of fatalities across the state. Torrential downpours dumped hundreds of millimetres of rain on Pune in barely a day and a half, flooding low-lying neighbourhoods and triggering rescue operations. Dozens were trapped when a decades-old garbage mound gave way onto a building. Transport was badly hit. Rail services on the Mumbai-Pune corridor were suspended after landslides struck the Bhor Ghat section, while the newly opened Missing Link stretch of the expressway

suffered damage. The state disaster authority said relief teams had been deployed and warned of more heavy rain in the Western Ghats over the following days.

NATIONAL

DRDO Successfully Test-Fires Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



CHANDIPUR, July 8: The Defence Research and Development Organisation on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket at the Integrated Test Range here, meeting all mission objectives. The rocket was tested for a user-defined minimum range of 60 kilometres and was launched from an in-service Pinaka launcher, demonstrating the system's ability to fire variants of different ranges from the same platform. Officials said it executed the planned in-flight manoeuvres and hit the designated target with precision. The guided rocket has been developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment in association with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, with support from other DRDO laboratories. It

is designed to engage area targets across ranges of roughly 60 to 120 kilometres. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, the Indian Army and the industry partners, calling the test a major milestone in the indigenous design and development of long-range guided rocket systems. The Pinaka programme forms a key part of the Army's artillery firepower, and defence officials said the guided variant significantly improves accuracy over the earlier unguided rockets in service.



NATIONAL

Government Calls All-Party Meeting Ahead Of Monsoon Session

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 12: The government convened an all-party meeting ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, seeking cooperation for the smooth conduct of the sitting that begins on July 20 and runs until August 13. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had earlier announced the schedule after President Droupadi Murmu approved the summoning of both Houses. The session is expected to feature 19 sittings and a busy legislative agenda. Among the key items, the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining a Constitution amendment bill is expected to draw significant attention. The government is also lining up several bills for consideration and passage during the session. Opposition parties indicated they would raise a range of issues on the floor, using the pre-session meeting to flag their priorities. Such consultations are customary before every session and set the tone for negotiations over the calendar of business. Leaders across parties pressed for adequate time to debate matters of national importance, as the government appealed for constructive engagement to avoid the disruptions that have marred recent sessions.

BUSINESS

HCLTech Posts Record Q1 Bookings Of \$2.4 Billion, Shares Surge

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



HCLTech reported its highest-ever first-quarter net new bookings of \$2,407 million for Q1 FY27, sending shares up nearly 5 per cent as the IT major flagged accelerating AI-led dema...

NOIDA, July 13: HCLTech reported quarterly revenue of \$3,650 million for the June quarter on Monday, alongside net new bookings of \$2,407 million, the highest first-quarter order intake in the company's history. The strong deal wins, coupled with accelerating artificial intelligence revenue, cheered investors and lifted the stock nearly 5 per cent in trade. Management said the quarter showed operational resilience despite the usual seasonal softness at the start of the financial year. The Noida-headquartered firm retained its full-year outlook, guiding for 1 to 4 per cent revenue growth

in constant currency and an operating margin band of 17.5 to 18.5 per cent. Return on invested capital stood at 40.7 per cent on a trailing twelve-month basis. HCLTech ended the quarter with net cash of about Rs 26,907 crore and paid dividends of roughly Rs 6,492 crore during the period. Total headcount was 223,889, down 3,292 from the previous quarter. The results followed a similarly steady show from TCS days earlier, reinforcing a picture of Indian IT majors leaning on record order books and AI transformation deals to offset cautious discretionary spending by global clients.

BUSINESS

Kashmir Handicraft Exports Stay Below Pre-Conflict Peak At Rs 817 Crore

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SRINAGAR, July 13: Kashmir's famed handicraft sector remains under strain, with exports at Rs 817.39 crore in 2025-26, well below the Rs 1,162 crore logged before the West Asia conflict disrupted overseas trade flows. The headline figure masks a sharp divergence across crafts. Pashmina and other shawls grew impressively over the period, but carpets have lost more than half their value in two years, papier-mache has shrunk to a fraction of its earlier worth, and wood carving has almost vanished from the export basket. Artisans and dealers link the slide to weaker demand in West Asian and Western markets, rising raw material costs and competition from cheaper machine-made imitations that dent the appeal of hand-knotted and hand-painted work. The sector is a mainstay of the Valley's economy, supporting a large base of weavers, carpet knotters and papier-mache artists whose livelihoods depend on export orders and tourist footfall. Trade bodies have renewed calls for stronger geographical-indication protection, easier credit for artisans and dedicated marketing support to help traditional crafts recover ground and rebuild the export momentum lost since the disruption.

BUSINESS

Sensex Jumps 828 Points As Nifty Reclaims 24,200 On Global Cues

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



MUMBAI, July 10: Indian equity benchmarks rallied sharply on Friday, with the BSE Sensex climbing 828 points, or 1.08 per cent, to close at 77,569.39 and the NSE Nifty 50 settling 244 points, or 1.02 per cent, higher at 24,206.90. The advance was broad-based, led by public sector banks and real estate stocks. A rebound in global chip shares and firmer Asian and US markets lifted sentiment, helping domestic indices extend their winning run. Traders said the gains came despite lingering worries over US-Iran tensions and firm Brent crude prices, suggesting buyers were willing to look past geopolitical noise. Financials and rate-sensitive sectors drew the bulk of fresh buying. The move also set a constructive tone ahead of a heavy earnings calendar, with TCS having reported a day earlier and HCLTech, Infosys and other large-caps due over the following week. Market participants cautioned that sustainability of the rally would depend on the tone of corporate guidance and any signals on interest rates,

with the Reserve Bank having held its repo rate at 5.25 per cent at its last review.



BUSINESS

Startup Funding Rebounds To \$219 Million As Late-Stage Deals Return

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

BENGALURU, July 10: India's startup funding regained momentum in the week ended July 9, with companies raising \$219.2 million across 18 rounds, a 28.3 per cent jump over the previous week's \$170.9 million even as the number of deals fell from 24. Late-stage investment drove the recovery, attracting \$167.7 million against \$79.6 million a week earlier. Data-centre infrastructure firm Yotta was the standout, securing \$150 million in a single transaction that accounted for more than two-thirds of the week's capital. The activity carried into Friday, when lab-grown diamond jewellery brand Aukera raised Rs 90 crore led by Alteria Capital, with participation from InnoVen Capital and Lighthouse Canton, to fund store expansion and omnichannel operations. The pipeline for public listings also strengthened. Auto-classifieds unicorn CarDekho's parent said it plans to file draft IPO papers with the market regulator during the July-September quarter, seeking to raise Rs 3,000-3,500 crore. Analysts said the mix of a marquee late-stage cheque and steady early-stage activity pointed to selective investor confidence, even as overall deal counts stayed below the peaks of previous funding cycles.



BUSINESS

TCS Opens FY27 With 14% Revenue Rise, Deepens AI Deal Push

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

MUMBAI, July 9: Tata Consultancy Services opened India's Q1 FY27 earnings season on Wednesday with a net profit of Rs 13,349 crore, up about 5 per cent from Rs 12,760 crore a year earlier. Revenue rose 14 per cent to Rs 72,275 crore, though sequential constant-currency growth stayed muted at 0.4 per cent. The country's largest software exporter reported an operating margin of 24 per cent and a total contract value, or order book, of \$9.5 billion for the quarter. Management pointed to steady demand in banking and financial services even as discretionary client spending remained cautious. Artificial intelligence was the standout theme. TCS said its annualised AI revenue reached \$2.6 billion, up 13.6 per cent over the previous quarter, helped by a marquee AI-led transformation deal with Swedish bearings maker SKF. The board declared an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share, with July 15 set as the record date. Executives said wage revisions during the quarter had weighed on margins but expected the impact to ease in coming months. Investors will now watch results from Infosys, HCLTech and Wipro to judge whether the broader IT sector can convert a swelling AI pipeline into firmer revenue growth through the rest of the financial year.

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TECHNOLOGY

India Charts Path To \$150 Billion Electronics Exports By 2030

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



At a July 10 policy dialogue in New Delhi, the Commerce Department laid out a roadmap to lift India's electronics exports to \$150 billion by 2030 and deepen its semiconductor ecosy...

NEW DELHI, July 10: The Department of Commerce convened a Chintan Shivir in the capital on Friday to shape policy for strengthening India's electronics manufacturing and export competitiveness, setting a target of \$150 billion in electronics exports by 2030. Officials outlined a roadmap to expand the country's role in global electronics value chains while building out its semiconductor and electronic components ecosystem. Discussions covered export opportunities in smartphones, servers, speciality electronics and components, and the need for resilient supply chains. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal stressed that reaching the target would require stable and predictable policy, warning that frequent changes could unsettle investors and exporters chasing long-

horizon manufacturing bets. Participants emphasised integrating small and medium enterprises into global value chains, which account for nearly 90 per cent of world electronics trade, and called for harmonising tariff codes with Customs authorities to curb misclassification and smooth exports. The dialogue drew leading manufacturers including Apple, Samsung, Foxconn, Tata Electronics, Dixon Technologies, boAt and Amber Enterprises. It builds on the government's India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, which has committed Rs 1,000 crore this financial year to deepen domestic chipmaking, design and skilling, as five semiconductor plants move toward operation.

TECHNOLOGY

Apple Sues OpenAI, Alleging Trade Secret Theft At Every Level

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



CUPERTINO, July 10: Apple has sued OpenAI in the US District Court for the Northern District of California, accusing the artificial intelligence company of a coordinated campaign to steal its trade secrets in order to build rival consumer hardware. The complaint alleges misconduct running from members of OpenAI's technical staff up to its chief hardware officer, Tang Tan, a former Apple vice president. Apple says the stolen material spans product designs, manufacturing processes and supply chain strategies developed at heavy expense. According to the filing, Tan directed job candidates still working at Apple to bring actual parts to interviews for show-and-tell sessions. It also names Chang Liu, an eight-year Apple electrical engineer, who it says failed to return a company laptop and used it to download confidential technical documents before leaving. The suit lands as OpenAI pushes

deeper into hardware, and after more than 400 former Apple employees, many from chip design and on-device AI teams, moved to the company. OpenAI rejected the claims, saying it had no interest in other companies' trade secrets and remained focused on building technology that empowers people everywhere. The case sets up a high-stakes fight between two of the industry's biggest names.

TECHNOLOGY

SK Hynix Sets Record With \$26.5 Billion Nasdaq Listing

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



NEW YORK, July 10: SK Hynix, the South Korean memory chipmaker, made a record-breaking debut on Nasdaq on Friday, raising \$26.5 billion in the largest first-time share sale ever completed by a foreign company on a US exchange. The offering surpassed the \$25 billion that Alibaba raised on its 2014 US market entry. American depositary receipts were priced at \$149 each, covering 177.9 million ADRs, with every ten receipts representing a

single underlying common share. The stock climbed on its opening day, finishing the session at \$168.01, well above its offer price, as investors bet on the company's central role in the artificial intelligence boom. SK Hynix leads the market for high-bandwidth memory, the chips stacked alongside AI accelerators, with a share estimated above 56 per cent. SK Hynix said it would use the proceeds to expand manufacturing at home in South Korea and to buy equipment, including extreme ultraviolet lithography machines used to etch the most advanced chips. The listing gives the company direct access to US capital at a moment when demand for AI memory is straining global supply, and underscores how deeply the semiconductor industry has become tied to the fortunes of artificial intelligence.

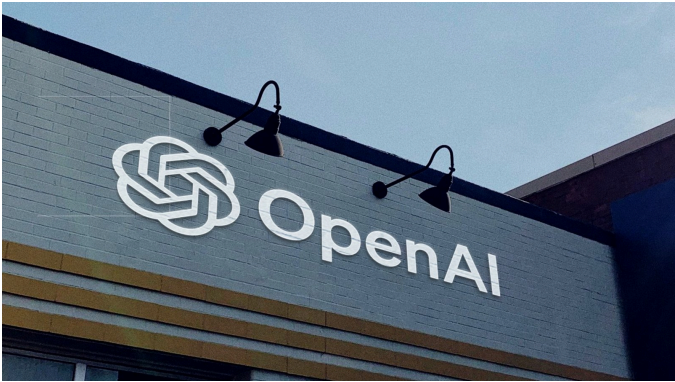


TECHNOLOGY

Musk's xAI Releases Grok 4.5, Billed As An Opus-Class Model

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8: Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company released Grok 4.5 on Tuesday, with Musk describing it as an Opus-class model built for coding, app-building, research and routine knowledge work. The company said the model handles clerical tasks, writing and agentic workflows, and claimed it delivers roughly twice the token efficiency of competing systems. Musk called it comparable to Anthropic's Opus 4.7 but much faster. Pricing was set aggressively at \$2 per million input tokens and \$6 per million output tokens, undercutting Opus 4.7 and other frontier offerings. The firm framed the mix of capability, speed and lower cost as its main competitive edge. Grok 4.5 first reached developers through the company's build tools, the Cursor code editor and its API console, with public access on the web and the X app opening the following day. Availability in the European Union was held back, with a rollout expected later in the month. The launch added to a frenetic week for artificial intelligence, coming just before OpenAI opened its GPT-5.6 models to the public and as the race among well-funded labs to ship faster, cheaper frontier systems showed no sign of easing.



TECHNOLOGY

OpenAI Rolls Out GPT-5.6 Family To Public After US Review

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, July 9: OpenAI opened public access to its new GPT-5.6 family of artificial intelligence models on Thursday, after receiving clearance under a US government review that all leading developers must now pass before releasing their most powerful systems. The line-up has three tiers. Sol is the flagship, aimed at the hardest reasoning tasks; Terra offers performance close to the earlier GPT-5.5 at roughly half the cost; and Luna is the cheapest option for high-volume use. The company said the models bring stronger agentic abilities in coding, biology and cybersecurity. Pricing was set to undercut competitors, with Sol at \$5 and \$30 per million input and output tokens, Terra at \$2.50 and \$15, and Luna at \$1 and \$6. Access is being rolled out across ChatGPT, the developer API and the Codex coding tool. The release followed weeks in which OpenAI had limited the models to a small group of trusted partners while the Department of Commerce conducted additional testing and held meetings with the company under a federal AI cybersecurity order. The launch intensifies a crowded frontier-model race, arriving days after Elon Musk's team pushed out its own Grok 4.5 system and with Google's Gemini 3.5 Pro still confined to enterprise preview.

NATIONAL

Delhi University CUET-CSAS Phase 2 Closes July 11; Simulated Ranks on July 12, First Seat Allotment List on July 16 — 83,000+ Seats, 3 Lakh Applicants

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) UG 2026 closed on July 11 at 11:59 PM, locking the college-programme choices of over 3 lakh CUET-qualified applicants competing for 83,000+ seats...

The Delhi University undergraduate admission process for the 2026–27 academic session has entered its crucial stage, with the Phase 2 preference-filling process under the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) concluding after a busy admission window. More than three lakh candidates who qualified the Common University Entrance Test (CUET UG) 2026 participated in the process, competing for over 83,000 undergraduate seats across the university.

Admissions are being conducted for 73 undergraduate programmes offered through 91 affiliated colleges and 86 academic departments. Candidates were required to submit their preferred programme-college combinations through the CSAS portal after ensuring they met the prescribed eligibility criteria.

Delhi University Dean of Admissions Haneet Gandhi reiterated that admissions to all regular undergraduate programmes are based entirely on CUET UG 2026 scores. Class XII marks will only be considered in the event of a tie between candidates. Applicants were also required to match the subjects studied in Class XII with the corresponding CUET test papers to establish eligibility before submitting their preferences.

The university permitted candidates to fill as many eligible programme-college combinations as they wished, with the portal automatically locking the last saved preferences after the deadline.

To help applicants make informed decisions, Delhi University released simulated ranks on July 12, enabling candidates to assess their probable position in the admission process based on the preferences submitted. A brief correction and preference revision window was subsequently provided from July 12 to July 13, allowing candidates to rearrange their choices before the final seat allocation.

The first CSAS seat allocation list is scheduled to be released on July 16 at 5 p.m. Candidates allotted seats will be required to accept their allotments between July 16 and July 18, after which colleges will verify applications and approve admissions by July 20. The deadline for payment of admission fees for the first round has been fixed as July 21.

Admission trends indicate that programmes such as B.Com (Honours) at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), BA (Honours) Economics and several popular humanities courses are expected to witness intense competition once again. Estimates based on previous admission cycles and the 2026 entrance examination suggest that these programmes are likely to attract some of the highest admission scores.

The university has announced that the academic session for the 2026–27 batch will commence on July 28, marking the beginning of the new academic year for thousands of incoming students.



NATIONAL

IBPS Opens Mega Recruitment: 6,715 PO / MT Posts + 745 Specialist Officer Vacancies — Register by July 21; Prelims in August

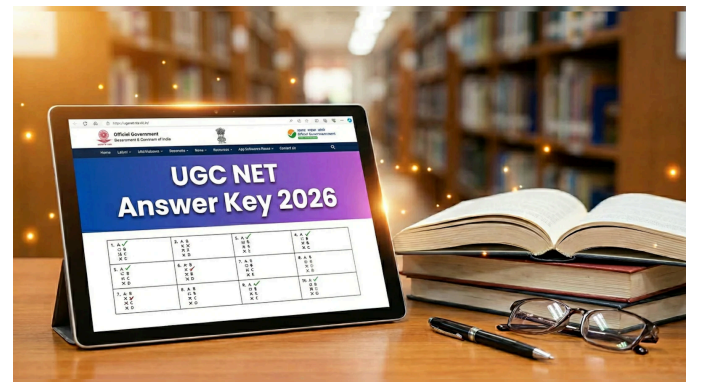
BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) has commenced one of its biggest annual recruitment campaigns, opening the application process for two major Common Recruitment Processes (CRPs)—CRP PO/MT-XVI and CRP SPL-XVI. Applications for both recruitment drives began on July 1 and will remain open until July 21, 2026.

Under the IBPS PO/MT CRP-XVI recruitment, a total of 6,715 vacancies have been announced for the posts of Probationary Officer (PO) and Management Trainee (MT) across 11 participating public sector banks. These include Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank and Union Bank of India.

IBPS has also introduced a revised examination pattern for the PO Main examination. The revised format comprises 170 objective questions carrying 200 marks, covering Reasoning, General, Banking and Digital Awareness, English Language, and Data Analysis. Candidates selected as Probationary Officers will receive a starting basic pay of ₹48,480, with the pay scale extending up to ₹85,920, in addition to applicable allowances.

Simultaneously, the institute has invited applications for 745 Specialist Officer (SO) vacancies under CRP SPL-XVI. The recruitment covers six specialist positions—IT Officer, Agricultural Field Officer, Rajbhasha Adhikari, Law Officer, HR/Personnel



NATIONAL

UGC NET June 2026 Provisional Answer Key Released; Candidates Can Challenge at ₹200 Per Question — Result Expected First Week of August

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has released the provisional answer key for the UGC NET June 2026 examination, enabling candidates to review their responses and estimate their probable scores before the declaration of the final results.

The examination was conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode between June 22 and June 30, with an additional session held on July 5, covering 87 subjects, including the newly introduced disciplines of Statistics and Forestry.

Along with the provisional answer key, the NTA has also made available the recorded response sheets and question papers on the official website, ugcnet.nta.nic.in. The move is aimed at ensuring transparency in the evaluation process by allowing candidates to compare their recorded responses with the provisional answers.

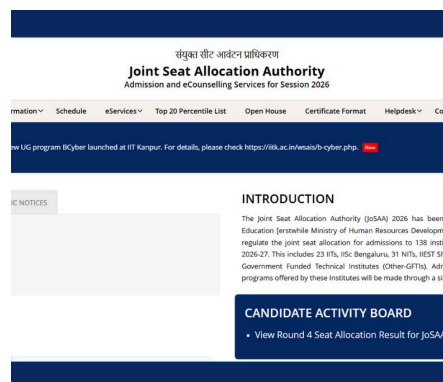
Candidates who find discrepancies in the answer key may submit objections through the online portal by selecting the relevant question ID, uploading supporting documentary evidence and paying a non-refundable fee of ₹200 per challenged question. The fee remains non-refundable irrespective of whether the challenge is accepted or rejected.

After the objection window closes, the NTA will forward all valid representations to a panel of subject experts for detailed evaluation. Based on the experts' recommendations, the agency will prepare the final answer key, which will form the basis for the declaration of the examination results.

NATIONAL

JoSAA 2026 Round 4 Allotment Out July 10; Round 5 — Final Round — Underway with July 14 Withdrawal Deadline; 70,000+ IIT-NIT Seats Being Filled

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2026 counselling process has entered its concluding stage, with the release of Round 4 seat allotment results on July 10 for admissions to India's premier engineering institutions. The counselling process covers 138 participating institutes, including 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Bengaluru, 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 26 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 56 Government-Funded Technical Institutes (GFTIs).

More than 70,000 undergraduate engineering and related programme seats are being allocated for the 2026–27 academic session through the centralised admission process.

Round 5, the final round of JoSAA counselling, is currently in progress. Candidates allotted seats in IITs or IISc who wish to withdraw from the counselling process must complete the withdrawal procedure by 5:00 p.m. IST on July 14, 2026**, after which the option will no longer be available.

This year's counselling has once again highlighted the strong demand for Computer Science Engineering (CSE) and Artificial Intelligence-related programmes

HEALTH

Six Members of Same Family Hospitalised in Rajouri After Suspected Food Poisoning from Wild Vegetable; Medical Teams Dispatched to Village

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 14 JUL, 2026



Nearly half a dozen members of a single family from a remote village in Rajouri district were rushed to hospital on July 10 after developing acute symptoms of gastroenteritis and d...

Nearly half a dozen members of a family from a remote village in Rajouri district were hospitalised on July 10 after developing symptoms of gastroenteritis and diarrhoea in a suspected case of food poisoning.

According to officials, the family members reportedly fell ill after consuming a locally gathered wild vegetable, a practice commonly followed in many forested villages of the Pir Panjal region where residents supplement their diet with seasonal vegetation collected from nearby hills and fields.

Following the onset of symptoms, the affected individuals were rushed to a nearby hospital, where they were admitted for treatment and kept under medical observation. Doctors said their condition was being closely monitored while appropriate medical care was being provided.

Preliminary findings by district health authorities suggest that consumption of the wild vegetable may have caused the illness. However, officials stated that the exact cause would be confirmed only after further investigation and laboratory examination to identify the specific plant or any toxic substances involved.

In response to the incident, health teams were deployed to the village to conduct door-to-door medical assessments and identify any additional residents experiencing similar symptoms. The teams also provided primary healthcare services and began an epidemiological investigation to determine the source and extent of the incident.

Health officials have advised residents in nearby villages to exercise caution while collecting and consuming wild vegetables during the monsoon season. Experts note that certain edible plants closely resemble poisonous varieties, increasing the risk of accidental consumption, while some wild plants naturally contain compounds that can trigger severe gastrointestinal illness.

The incident has highlighted the importance of food safety awareness in remote parts of Rajouri district, where the use of wild vegetation remains common and access to specialised healthcare facilities can be limited due to difficult terrain.

District health authorities said the investigation is ongoing and additional information will be released after field teams complete their assessment and laboratory findings become available.



HEALTH

Dementia Risk Factors Vary Widely by Country, Global Study Finds

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

LOS ANGELES, July 13: The risk factors that drive dementia vary sharply from one country to another, according to a large international study that challenges the idea of a single, universal prevention strategy for the condition. Researchers analysing data from more than 214,000 older adults across 14 countries and regions found striking contrasts in how common each modifiable risk factor was. Low education affected 85.6 percent of older adults in China but just 12 percent in the United States, while high body-mass index affected 44.9 percent of Americans compared with only 13.3 percent of people in India. The team, led by the University of Southern California, examined twelve modifiable risk factors previously identified by the Lancet Commission on dementia, among them hearing loss, high blood pressure, smoking, depression, physical inactivity and social isolation. The findings were published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity and presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London. Despite the variation, certain risks tended to cluster together in similar patterns worldwide, such as cardiovascular factors or risky behaviours. The authors argued that prevention campaigns should be tailored to local profiles rather than borrowed wholesale from wealthier nations, a message with particular resonance for fast-ageing populations in India and other low- and middle-income countries.



HEALTH

J&K Pushes Preventive Oncology Framework Across All Medical Colleges

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

SRINAGAR, July 14: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo has directed the Health and Medical Education Department to build a robust preventive oncology framework across all Government Medical Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir, as officials finalise a comprehensive Cancer Care Strategy for the Union Territory. Chairing a high-level review, Dulloo said cancer was emerging as a major public health challenge in the region and called for an integrated, technology-enabled ecosystem spanning prevention, early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care and research. The strategy has been drawn up in consultation with national oncology institutions. The Chief Secretary pushed for a phased capacity-building programme to train specialist manpower, including Radiation Safety Officer-certified personnel, alongside upgrades to equipment and infrastructure at medical colleges. A steering committee has been constituted to establish population-based and hospital-based cancer registries. Following the notification declaring cancer a notifiable disease, the government has begun executing a memorandum of understanding with ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology in Bengaluru for technical support in setting up a modern registry system. The meeting was attended by the Director of SKIMS, the Mission Director of the National Health Mission, the Director of Tata Memorial Centre, Chandigarh, and principals of the government medical colleges.

HEALTH

NMC Clears 50 More MBBS Seats for GMC Jammu, Intake Hits 250

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



JAMMU, July 13: The National Medical Commission has approved 50 additional MBBS seats for Government Medical College, Jammu, raising the college's annual intake from 200 to 250 students from the 2026-27 academic session. The Medical Assessment and Rating Board, the NMC's regulatory arm, issued the letter of permission authorising the increase. The

clearance came three days after a similar approval for GMC Srinagar, taking the combined addition across Jammu and Kashmir's flagship government colleges to 100 seats. The Health and Medical Education Department said the expansion reflected the administration's commitment to upgrading medical infrastructure and strengthening human resource capacity in the health sector. Officials said the extra seats would widen opportunities for local students pursuing careers in medicine while helping address the shortage of doctors in the region. GMC Jammu, one of the oldest medical institutions in the Union Territory, has steadily expanded its intake over the past few years alongside new colleges commissioned across the region. The additional seats are expected to ease pressure on aspirants who have long faced intense competition for limited places. Authorities said the enhanced capacity would also support the broader push to strengthen tertiary care and specialist training across the Union Territory's medical education network.

HEALTH

Ebola Deaths Cross 600 in DR Congo as Outbreak Widens

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



KINSHASA, July 9: The confirmed death toll from the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has crossed 600, the World Health Organization said, as the epidemic driven by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus showed no sign of slowing across the country's eastern provinces. By July 8,

INTERNATIONAL

NATO Summit In Ankara Pledges 70 Billion Euros For Ukraine

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



NATO leaders closed their Ankara summit with a pledge of 70 billion euros in military support for Ukraine this year, a renewed Article 5 commitment and a licence for Kyiv to build...

ANKARA, July 8: NATO leaders wrapped up their summit in the Turkish capital with a fresh package of commitments for Ukraine and a pointed reaffirmation of collective defence, even as the alliance's attention was pulled toward the flaring crisis with Iran.The Ankara Summit Declaration pledged 70 billion euros in military equipment, assistance and training for Ukraine in 2026, with allies affirming they would sustain at least equivalent levels through 2027. Washington also offered Kyiv a licence to manufacture Patriot air-defence interceptors on its own soil.Secretary General Mark Rutte set out three priorities: raising defence investment, expanding transatlantic industrial production and backing Ukraine. The

declaration noted European allies and Canada had lifted spending by more than 139 billion dollars in 2025.President Trump reaffirmed US support for Article 5, the mutual-defence clause, easing anxieties among European members about American reliability. "An attack on one is an attack on all," the text stressed.Leaders also endorsed modernisation across nuclear, conventional, cyber and uncrewed capabilities, describing Russia as a long-term threat to Euro-Atlantic security. The summit's outcome offered Kyiv reassurance as Moscow signalled it intends to escalate rather than negotiate.

INTERNATIONAL

US Moves To Remove Syria From State Sponsors Of Terror List

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



WASHINGTON, July 8: The United States moved to remove Syria from its list of state sponsors of terrorism, a designation in place since 1979, in a decision President Donald Trump conveyed personally to Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Ankara.In a letter to al-Sharaa, Trump wrote that he had promised to "remove all barriers stopping you from rebuilding your country," adding that American firms were ready to invest in Syria's reconstruction.Secretary of State Marco Rubio notified Congress of the move, which takes effect in 45 days unless lawmakers block it, an outcome widely seen as unlikely. Rubio said lifting sanctions would "unlock international trade and investment" and give Syria a chance to rebuild.Officials cited counterterrorism steps taken by Damascus and formal assurances from al-Sharaa that Syria would not support international terrorism. The delisting follows the fall of

the Assad government in 2024.Once complete, only Iran, North Korea and Cuba would remain on the blacklist. The administration pressed ahead despite Israeli misgivings and a lack of progress on Syria-Israel talks, betting that engagement will stabilise the war-scarred nation.

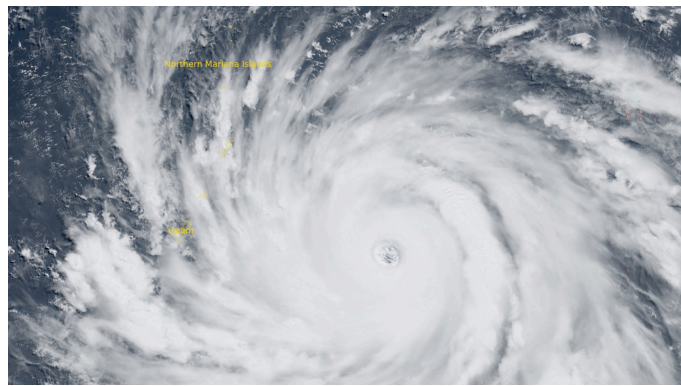


INTERNATIONAL

US-Iran Ceasefire Collapses As Strikes Rock Strait Of Hormuz

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

DUBAI, July 9: The fragile ceasefire between Washington and Tehran unravelled this week as Iranian forces attacked commercial tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, drawing two rounds of American airstrikes and a fresh wave of sanctions on Iranian oil exports.The escalation began on July 7, when projectiles struck the Qatari-owned LNG carrier Al Rekayat and the Saudi-flagged supertanker Wedyan, forcing the evacuation of one vessel after a fire broke out in its engine room. Within 24 hours the Revolutionary Guard hit a third ship transiting the waterway.US Central Command said its forces struck more than 80 Iranian targets, including air-defence systems, coastal radar sites, anti-ship missile batteries and dozens of Guard fast-attack boats stationed near the strait. President Donald Trump declared the truce "over," branding Iran's leadership as untrustworthy.The Treasury reimposed sanctions on Iranian crude that had been eased under the earlier memorandum, while tanker traffic through the chokepoint slowed to a near standstill amid soaring insurance and shipping risks.Roughly a fifth of the world's seaborne oil passes through Hormuz, and the renewed fighting sent Brent crude sharply higher, reviving fears of a broader Gulf conflict and global inflationary shock.



INTERNATIONAL

Typhoon Bavi Slams Eastern China After Mass Coastal Evacuations

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

TAIZHOU, July 11: Typhoon Bavi barrelled into eastern China late on Saturday, making landfall near the coastal city of Taizhou in Zhejiang province after authorities evacuated more than 1.7 million people from its path.The storm struck around 11:20 pm local time with maximum sustained winds of about 144 kilometres per hour, equivalent to a Category 1 hurricane. State broadcaster CCTV reported fierce winds and torrential rain uprooting roadside trees and forming rapid runoff across the impact zone.Zhejiang accounted for the bulk of the evacuations, with more than 100,000 people each relocated from neighbouring Fujian and Beijing and tens of thousands moved from Shanghai. Officials suspended schools, ferry links and rail services, while hundreds of flights were cancelled across the region.Bavi had earlier brushed past Taiwan and lashed southern Japan before turning toward the mainland. Forecasters warned that days of heavy rain would follow, raising the risk of severe flooding and landslides inland.The disaster struck as parts of southern China were still recovering from an earlier tropical storm, straining emergency resources during one of the most punishing monsoon seasons in years across East and South Asia.

SPORTS

Baramulla Strikers Lift Inaugural Kashmir Champions Football League

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



Baramulla Strikers were crowned champions of the first Kashmir Champions Football League, a J&K Sports Council initiative that scouted players across all ten districts of the Kashm...

SRINAGAR, July 10: Baramulla Strikers were crowned winners of the inaugural Kashmir Champions Football League, capping a tournament organisers have hailed as a landmark for grassroots football in the Valley.The competition, run by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, was staged at the TRC Turf Football Stadium in Srinagar and brought together district teams drawn from all ten districts of the Kashmir division.Officials described the league as the first government-led initiative of its kind in the country, in which

district squads were assembled through transparent scouting before competing in a professionally organised event.The format gave hundreds of local footballers a competitive platform and a route to selection on merit, part of a wider push to develop sporting talent across Jammu and Kashmir.Organisers said the enthusiastic turnout for the final underlined the appetite for football in Kashmir and pledged to expand the league in future seasons, with hopes of eventually drawing teams from the Jammu division as well.

SPORTS

Noskova Wins All-Czech Wimbledon Final For Maiden Grand Slam

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



LONDON, July 11: Linda Noskova won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday, beating compatriot Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in an all-Czech Wimbledon women's singles final on Centre Court.Noskova raced through the opening set but had to hold her nerve after Muchova fought back to level the match, taking the second set as the more experienced player found her range. The younger woman regrouped in the decider to close out a memorable victory.At 21 years and 236 days, Noskova became the youngest Wimbledon women's champion since Petra Kvitova in 2011, extending a rich Czech tradition on the grass of the All England Club.An emotional Noskova said she could scarcely believe she had won the title she grew up watching, and thanked her team and family for the years of work behind the breakthrough.Muchova, gracious in defeat, congratulated her younger rival and said reaching a first Wimbledon final had been a special fortnight despite the disappointment of falling at the last hurdle.

SPORTS

England Whitewash India 4-0 In T20s, Seize Top Ranking

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026



SOUTHAMPTON, July 11: England completed a crushing 4-0 sweep of India in the Twenty20 series on Saturday, winning the fifth match by 56 runs at Southampton and dethroning the tourists as the world's top-ranked T20 side.Jos Buttler set the game alight with 131 off 64 balls, sharing a record second-wicket stand of 233 with Harry Brook as England piled up 257 for 3 in their 20 overs. It was one of the highest totals England have posted in the format on home soil.India never recovered from the onslaught. Ishan Kishan made 56 and Tilak Varma added 53, but the required rate proved far beyond reach and the innings closed on 201 for 8.Buttler, named player of the match, said the partnership with Brook was among the most enjoyable of his career and praised a batting group that scored freely throughout the series.The result caps a miserable white-ball tour for India, who now turn their attention to the three-match one-day series later in July as they look to salvage some pride before heading home.



SPORTS

Sinner Retains Wimbledon Crown, Edges Zverev In Four-Set Final

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

LONDON, July 12: Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Wimbledon title on Sunday, beating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7(7-9), 7-6(7-2), 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court to claim the gentlemen's singles crown for a second straight year.The Italian world number one lost a tense opening set in a tie-break, but steadied himself in the second and grew stronger as the afternoon wore on. It was his fifth Grand Slam title overall and confirmed his standing at the top of men's tennis.Zverev, chasing a first major, pushed the champion hard in the early exchanges and served well through the opening hour. But Sinner's depth from the baseline and his returning eventually wore the German down, with a decisive break in each of the last two sets.The 24-year-old dropped to the grass in celebration after sealing victory in a little under three hours. He becomes the first man to retain the Wimbledon title since Novak Djokovic.Sinner thanked the Centre Court crowd and paid tribute to Zverev, calling him one of the toughest opponents on tour and predicting the German would win a major of his own soon.



SPORTS

World Cup Semis Set: Argentina, England, France, Spain Advance

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

NEW YORK, July 12: The 2026 World Cup has thrown up a blockbuster semifinal line-up, with the top four teams in the FIFA rankings all coming through the quarter-finals for the first time in the tournament's history.Defending champions Argentina were pushed to extra time before beating Switzerland 3-1, while England edged Norway 2-1 with a late winner. Spain overcame Belgium 2-1 and France saw off Morocco 2-0 to complete the last-four field.The draw sets up France against Spain in Dallas on Tuesday, July 14, followed by England versus Argentina in Atlanta a day later. Both ties pair traditional heavyweights and carry the promise of a classic final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.Organisers hailed the sporting quality of a tournament co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, with expanded crowds and a 48-team format drawing record attendances across the continent.For neutral observers the semifinals offer a feast of talent, from Lionel Messi's Argentina chasing back-to-back titles to a resurgent England seeking a first World Cup triumph since 1966.

PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — SE R&B POONCH (CE R&B PIR PANJAL) Ref: e-NIT No. 41 of 2026-27 dated 09-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PWDJK_312884_1) Upgradation of Mandi-Loran road (Km 3rd to 7th), Tehsil Mandi, Poonch The Public Works (R&B) Department, Poonch invites e-tenders for widening, retaining-wall protection and blacktopping of the Mandi-Loran road in Tehsil Mandi. Registered contractors of appropriate class may bid; the last... Type: Works Last date: 28 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹2.94 crore EMD: ₹5,88,000 Location: Mandi-Loran, Tehsil Mandi, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Poonch · Refer NIT PDF	JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION SURANKOTE (POONCH) Ref: e-NIT No. 18 of 2026-27 dated 10-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PHEJK_313110_1) JJM water supply scheme augmentation, Surankote (distribution & OHT) The Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Surankote invites e-tenders under Jal Jeevan Mission for laying of distribution network, house service connections and construction of an overhead tank for the Surankote WSS. Class contra... Type: Works Last date: 30 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹1.87 crore EMD: ₹3,74,000 Location: Surankote, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Surankote · Refer NIT PDF	PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION MENDHAR (POONCH) Ref: e-NIT No. 27 of 2026-27 dated 11-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PWDJK_313402_1) Construction of RCC slab culvert & CC drain, Qasba Mendhar The Public Works (R&B) Department, Mendhar invites e-tenders for construction of an RCC slab culvert and cement-concrete road drain in Qasba Mendhar. Eligible registered contractors may submit online bids by the twenty-n... Type: Works Last date: 29 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹68.50 lakh EMD: ₹1,37,000 Location: Qasba Mendhar, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Mendhar · Refer NIT PDF
POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (PDD) — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION POONCH Ref: e-NIT No. 22 of 2026-27 dated 09-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PDDJK_312655_1) Augmentation of 33/11 kV receiving station & LT line, Mandi (Poonch) The Power Development Department, Poonch invites e-tenders for augmentation of the 33/11 kV receiving station and re-conductoring of the LT distribution line at Mandi under system-improvement works. Electrical contractor... Type: Works Last date: 31 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹1.12 crore EMD: ₹2,24,000 Location: Mandi, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Executive Engineer, PDD Electric Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF	IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER I&FC DIVISION RAJOURI Ref: e-NIT No. 14 of 2026-27 dated 10-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_IFCJK_312970_1) Flood-protection bund & wire-crate works along Nowshera nallah, Rajouri The Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Rajouri invites e-tenders for construction of a protection bund and wire-crate (gabion) works along the Nowshera nallah to protect adjoining habitation and agricultural land. Re... Type: Works Last date: 1 Aug 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹79.40 lakh EMD: ₹1,58,800 Location: Nowshera, Rajouri district, J&K Contact: Executive Engineer, I&FC Division Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF	RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (RDD) — ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DEVELOPMENT / BDO DRABA (POONCH) Ref: e-NIT No. 09 of 2026-27 dated 08-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_RDDJK_312220_1) Construction of Panchayat Ghar & Anganwadi Centre, Block Draba The Rural Development Department, Block Draba (Poonch) invites e-tenders for construction of a Panchayat Ghar and an Anganwadi Centre under 15th Finance Commission / SBM works. Registered contractors and eligible SHGs of... Type: Works Last date: 27 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹42.60 lakh EMD: ₹85,200 Location: Block Draba, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Block Development Officer, Draba (Poonch) · Refer NIT PDF
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — SE R&B RAJOURI (CE R&B PIR PANJAL) Ref: e-NIT No. 36 of 2026-27 dated 11-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PWDJK_313550_1) Blacktopping of Rajouri-Thanamandi road (macadamisation & premix) The Public Works (R&B) Department, Rajouri invites e-tenders for macadamisation and premix carpeting of a stretch of the Rajouri-Thanamandi road. Contractors registered in the appropriate class may participate; the last... Type: Works Last date: 30 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹3.42 crore EMD: ₹6,84,000 Location: Rajouri-Thanamandi, Rajouri district, J&K Contact: Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF	PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION POONCH Ref: e-NIT No. 07 of 2026-27 dated 12-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_PWDJK_313811_1) PMGSY-III upgradation of link road to Behramgala (Surankote-Poonch) The PMGSY Division, Poonch invites e-tenders for upgradation of a rural link road connecting Behramgala under PMGSY-III, including cross-drainage and pavement works. Contractors with valid PMGSY registration may bid; onl... Type: Works Last date: 2 Aug 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹4.15 crore EMD: ₹8,30,000 Location: Behramgala, Surankote, Poonch district, J&K Contact: Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF	JAMMU & KASHMIR MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD (JKMSCL) Ref: e-NIT No. JKMSCL/Drugs & Medicines/2026-28/712 dated 08-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_JKMSCL_313035_1) Rate-contract supply of drugs & medicines for J&K health institutions (2026-28) The J&K Medical Supplies Corporation invites e-tenders from manufacturers / authorised suppliers for a two-year rate contract for supply of drugs and medicines to health institutions across the Union Territory. Eligible... Type: Supply Last date: 25 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification EMD: Refer NIT (product-wise EMD) Location: Union Territory of J&K (state-wide supply) Contact: Managing Director, JKMSCL, Jammu/Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (SKIMS), SOURA, SRINAGAR Ref: e-NIT No. SKIMS/Store/Proc/2026-27/318 dated 09-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_SKIMS_312790_1) Supply & installation of hospital medical equipment and consumables SKIMS Soura invites e-tenders for supply, installation and commissioning of assorted medical equipment and consumables for its clinical departments. Manufacturers and authorised dealers may participate; online bids must... Type: Supply Last date: 24 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification EMD: Refer NIT (item-wise EMD) Location: SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, J&K Contact: Director, SKIMS Soura, Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF	UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU — ESTATES / PURCHASE SECTION Ref: e-NIT No. JU/Estates/2026-27/144 dated 10-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026_JAMMUUNIV_313220_1) Renovation of laboratory block & supply of lab furniture, University of Jammu The University of Jammu invites e-tenders for renovation of a laboratory block and supply/installation of laboratory furniture on its main campus. Registered contractors and approved suppliers of appropriate class may bi... Type: Works Last date: 28 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Approx. ₹55.00 lakh EMD: ₹1,10,000 Location: University of Jammu, Jammu, J&K Contact: Registrar, University of Jammu · Refer NIT PDF	J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2026 dated 25-05-2026 Recruitment to 130 UT/Divisional/District Cadre posts (multi-department) The J&K Services Selection Board invites online applications for 130 posts across multiple departments, including Electrician, Plumber, Laboratory Assistant, Library Assistant and Computer Assistant. Only J&K domiciles p... Type: Recruitment Last date: 21 Jul 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification Location: Union Territory of J&K Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in
J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2026 dated 06-07-2026 Recruitment to 357 Draftsman (Civil) & Works Supervisor posts, PWD (R&B) The J&K Services Selection Board invites online applications for 357 Divisional Cadre posts under the Public Works (R&B) Department, comprising 97 Draftsman (Civil) and 260 Works Supervisor posts. Eligible J&K domiciles... Type: Recruitment Last date: 30 Aug 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification Location: Union Territory of J&K (Divisional Cadre) Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in	J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 07 of 2026 dated 09-07-2026 Recruitment to 645 Warder & PWD (R&B) posts The J&K Services Selection Board invites online applications for 645 posts, including Warder (Home/Prisons Department) and Public Works (R&B) Department posts. Eligible J&K domiciles may apply; the Warder application win... Type: Recruitment Last date: 25 Aug 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification Location: Union Territory of J&K Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in	J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 08 of 2026 dated 12-07-2026 (PM Package) Recruitment to 72 Divisional Cadre posts under PM Package The J&K Services Selection Board invites online applications for 72 Divisional Cadre posts to be filled under the Prime Minister's Development Package. Eligible candidates may submit online application forms from 10 Augu... Type: Recruitment Last date: 8 Sep 2026 Est. cost: Refer notification Location: Union Territory of J&K (Divisional Cadre) Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

REGIONAL

LG Sinha Urges J&K Youth To Dream Big At Lal Ded Awards

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

S RINAGAR, July 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to dream big, work hard and draw inspiration from the region's spiritual and cultural heritage, speaking at the Lal Ded Literature Awards."Dream big, work hard, and strive for excellence. Our nation's journey succeeds through patience, hard work, and collective effort," the Lieutenant Governor told the gathering.Sinha also released the book "Lal Ded: The Mother of Kashmir" by Dr Vaidehi Taman at the function, which honoured writers and literary contributors from across the Union Territory.He said the youth were the builders of the future and called for innovation and a clear sense of purpose in the effort to build a self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor praised the enduring influence of the 14th-century mystic poet Lal Ded on Kashmiri thought and literature.The awards event was among a series of engagements by the Lieutenant Governor in the Valley during the week, held alongside ongoing preparations for the Amarnath Yatra.

REGIONAL

Landslide Halts Vaishno Devi Battery Car Service Near Himkoti in Reasi

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

K ATRA, July 8: A landslide triggered by heavy rain struck the track leading to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine near Himkoti on Wednesday evening, forcing a temporary suspension of the battery car service on the route in Reasi district.The landslide occurred on the newer track to the shrine atop the Trikota hills. No injuries were reported, according to officials.The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board deployed men and machinery to clear the debris from the affected stretch soon after the incident. The battery car service, which ferries pilgrims along the new route, was halted while the clearance work was under way.The pilgrimage itself continued without interruption, with hundreds of pilgrims making their way to and from the shrine along the old track during the day.The region has received spells of heavy rain in recent days, which officials linked to the landslide.

Authorities said restoration work on the route was taken up on priority to resume normal services.

REGIONAL

Deputy CM Reviews Katra Expressway Works, Meets Injured Soldier in Udhampur

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

U DHAMPUR, July 8: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary reviewed construction work on the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway during a visit to Udhampur district on Wednesday, inspecting the Domail-Katra stretch of the project.Choudhary directed the executing agencies to ensure the timely completion of the expressway while maintaining quality and safety standards. He asked officials to address any bottlenecks holding up progress on the stretch.During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister called on Subedar Rakesh Kumar of the 1st Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, who was undergoing treatment at the Northern Command Hospital in Udhampur. He met the injured soldier's family and directed hospital authorities to provide the best possible care.Choudhary also held a public outreach programme at Katra, where he heard grievances from residents and assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the departments concerned.He said the government remained committed to transparent and people-centric governance, adding that field visits were being undertaken to monitor development works and to stay in touch with the public.

REGIONAL

Omar Announces Delhi Protest Over Delay In Statehood Restoration

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

J AMMU, July 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday announced that the National Conference would stage a protest in Delhi on July 20 against the continued delay in restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.Addressing a rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu, Abdullah said his party had waited nearly two years after the Assembly election in the expectation that the Centre would act. "We have given the Central government enough time. Now we will adopt a new strategy," he said.The Chief Minister said the protest would coincide with the opening day of the monsoon session of Parliament. "If not in Delhi, then where?" he asked, defending the decision to hold the demonstration in the national capital.Abdullah accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of using statehood as a political instrument rather than honouring a constitutional commitment, and referred to assurances given to the Supreme Court that statehood would be restored after elections.The Union government had earlier told the court that restoration would follow in stages, beginning with delimitation and Assembly elections.

REGIONAL

Lashkar Commander Killed As Shopian Encounter Ends After Five Days

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 14 JUL, 2026

S HOPIAN, July 8: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander identified as Zakir Ganai was killed on Wednesday as a five-day anti-terror operation in south Kashmir's Shopian district concluded, officials said.The operation was launched on July 4 after security personnel received intelligence about the presence of militants in the area. Forces cordoned off Chanapora, Saidpora, Amshipora and adjoining villages and carried out intensive searches, triggering an exchange of fire when the militants were spotted.The joint operation was conducted by the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army's Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF. Ganai had been associated with the outfit since 2024, according to police.Arms and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site.

Officials said the searches were completed before the cordon was lifted.The operation was among several counter-terror actions carried out across the Kashmir Valley in recent weeks as security agencies maintained a heightened posture during the Amarnath Yatra.