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National surveillance shows dengue is now India's dominant vector-borne disease, even as rising non-communicable illness opens a second front.

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The number of 5G base stations has risen almost fourfold since 2023, the communications ministry said, as it pushes on...

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Adtech unicorn InMobi has appointed four banks for a roughly \$1 billion public offering, joining a crowded queue of Indian...

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At least 21 killed as Russia and Ukraine trade heaviest blows in weeks

A Russian missile strike on a defence-industry event in the Kyiv region killed 10 people, as Moscow and Kyiv exchanged...

REGIONAL

Statehood push hardens into NC-BJP standoff as Centre stays noncommittal

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood gained fresh momentum this week, with Omar Abdullah pressing "statehood first" as the BJP launched counter-agitations and the Centre repeated it would respond "at an appropriate time."

The demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood gathered fresh momentum this week, hardening into a direct confrontation between the ruling National

REGIONAL

Rajnath in Srinagar to review security ahead of Kargil Vijay Diwas

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Srinagar on a two-day J&K and Ladakh visit, received by LG Manoj Sinha, ahead of the Kargil Vijay Diwas commemoration at Drass.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Srinagar on Saturday on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, ahead of the 27th Kargil Vijay...

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LG orders faster restoration as rain havoc batters J&K

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewed the flood and landslide situation across Jammu and Kashmir and directed departments to

SPORTS

Over 200 shooters take aim as J&K UT championship gets under way in Jammu

The 15th J&K UT Shooting Championship drew more than 200 marksmen to ranges across Jammu, with young rifle and pistol shooters setting the early pace at the five-day meet.

More than 200 shooters from across Jammu and Kashmir took aim at the 15th J&K UT Shooting Championship 2026, a five-day competition...

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NATIONAL

Pradhan quits as education minister as student revolt over NEET leak forces Centre's hand

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned on July 25, handing a decisive victory to the nationwide student agitation over the NEET-UG paper leak. The opposition welcomed the move and demanded a prime...

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned on Saturday, submitting his resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and handing a decisive victory...

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REGIONAL

Vaishno Devi yatra resumes on old track after six-day suspension

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra resumed via the traditional track after a six-day, weather-induced halt, even as rain kept the newer route closed.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra resumed on Saturday after a six-day suspension forced by heavy rain and safety concerns, with authorities declaring the traditional track safe for pilgrims, officials said. The pilgrimage to the cave shrine in Reasi district's Trikuta hills had been halted through the week as incessant showers triggered landslides and shooting stones along the routes. On resumption, devotees were allowed to proceed only via the old track after extensive safety measures were put in place, while the newer track stayed shut owing to the persisting threat of falling debris. Continuous rainfall in

Reasi and the upper catchments also swelled inflows into the Salal reservoir, prompting authorities to open the dam's gates to regulate the rising water level. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board urged pilgrims to follow the directions of security agencies, stick to designated routes and stay updated on weather advisories during their journey. Thousands of devotees resumed the climb despite intermittent rain, in one of the longer suspensions of the shrine route this season, officials added.



REGIONAL

Sakeena Itoo reviews flood preparedness in Kulgam, Shopian

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo toured south Kashmir districts to review flood preparedness as heavy rain continued to lash the Valley, directing officials to keep round-the-clock watch on rising water levels. During visits to Kulgam and Shopian, the minister held meetings with district administrations and inspected vulnerable stretches along streams such as the Veshow, asking officers to identify weak spots and strengthen flood protection works. She directed that essential services — power, drinking water and healthcare — remain uninterrupted through the adverse weather, and asked departments to remain on high alert, maintain close coordination and ensure a prompt response to any emergency. Itoo also stressed the need for both immediate and long-term flood mitigation works in low-lying areas, and reviewed the availability of rescue equipment and manpower with disaster management teams. The tour, ordered by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was part of a wider government exercise to assess readiness across south Kashmir after days of relentless rain raised fears of flooding along the Jhelum and its tributaries.

REGIONAL

Policeman on yatra duty shot dead in Anantnag as TRF claims attack

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



A policeman on Amarnath Yatra security duty was shot dead by militants in the heart of Anantnag town on Wednesday, the most serious security breach in the Valley this week and a jolt to the elaborate protection cordon around the ongoing pilgrimage. Head Constable Aashiq Hussain Qureshi, attached to the 3rd Battalion of the India Reserve Police and a resident of Beerwah in Budgam, was fired upon at around 12:30 pm at Lal Chowk in Anantnag as militants targeted a police patrol. He was rushed to the Government Medical College, Anantnag, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The Resistance Front, a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility through a social media post. Police, CRPF and army teams cordoned off Lal Chowk and adjoining areas and launched intensive search

operations along suspected escape routes. The killing came with the Amarnath Yatra already suspended since July 19 because of heavy rain, landslides and flash floods across the Jammu region, including Poonch and Rajouri districts. A day after the attack, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level security review with senior officials of the Army, J&K Police, central armed forces and civil administration, directing them to remain vigilant, step up intelligence-led anti-terror operations and tighten the security grid for pilgrims. Qureshi's killing, in a crowded market square in broad daylight, deepened concern over the targeting of policemen in south Kashmir's towns even as forces press a summer-long counter-infiltration effort and guard the pilgrimage routes.

REGIONAL

J&K sets strict timelines for fund release, bill clearance

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has fixed strict timelines for the release of funds and the clearance of bills, in a move aimed at cutting payment delays and speeding up development spending across departments. Under the order, administrative departments must release capital-expenditure funds to heads of departments within 10 days of receiving them from the Finance Department, and the heads of departments must pass the money on to executing agencies within a further 10 days, failing which the unspent amount will be reversed. For centrally sponsored schemes run under the SNA-SPARSH framework, departments have been told to release funds to subordinate offices within 48 hours. Sanctions for advance drawals are to be issued within five working days and the bills submitted within the next five, while treasury offices must process bills within two working days and flag any deficiency within one. The department said the timelines were meant to streamline the flow of funds, minimise delays and improve the efficiency of financial operations, with senior finance officials overseeing compliance.



REGIONAL

Amarnath Yatra resumes after six-day weather halt

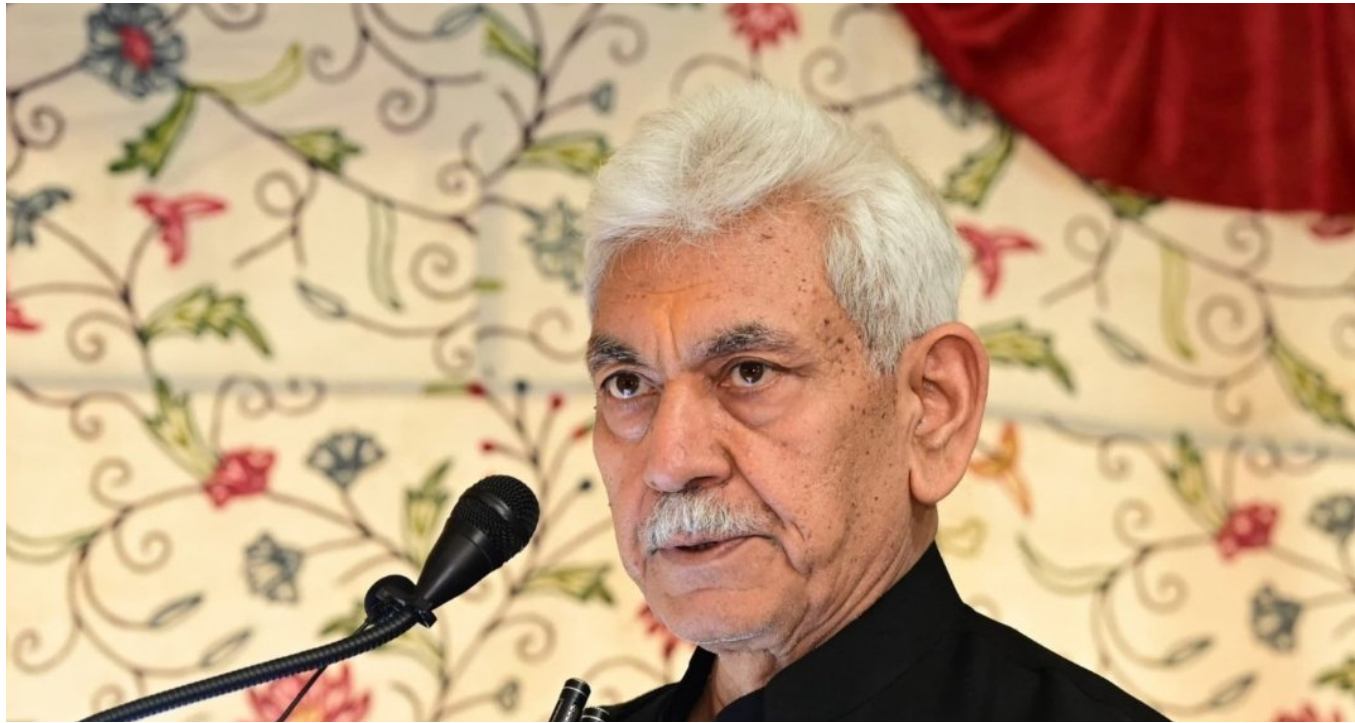
BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra resumed on Saturday after a six-day suspension, as a fresh batch of 6,269 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the Kashmir Valley once the weather improved and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was cleared. The pilgrimage to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas had been halted on July 19 as heavy rain, flash floods and landslides battered the Union Territory and made the routes unsafe. Officials said it was the longest single break in this year's yatra. The batch of 6,269, including 1,470 women, 25 children and 54 sadhus, moved out of Jammu in a convoy of 223 vehicles around 2.40 a.m. under tight security. For the day, pilgrims were routed only through the 14-km Baltal track in Ganderbal, with movement on the longer 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag kept on hold pending a review of trail conditions. The highway had reopened after a three-day closure caused by landslides and shooting stones along the Ramban stretch. Nearly four lakh pilgrims have visited the shrine since the yatra began, with about 1.2 lakh setting out from the Jammu base camp. The 57-day pilgrimage is scheduled to conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. Authorities said arrangements for medical aid, langars and accommodation along both routes were being maintained, and that any further suspension would depend on weather and safety assessments.

REGIONAL

Upgrade skills to succeed, LG tells J&K youth at job fair

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Addressing a mega job fair in Srinagar, LG Manoj Sinha urged J&K's youth to build skills and confidence alongside degrees to succeed in a changing job market.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday told Jammu and Kashmir's youth that they are the architects of India's future, urging them to build skills and confidence alongside academic degrees to succeed in a fast-changing job market. Addressing a mega job fair at Amar Singh College in Srinagar, Sinha said the time had passed when a degree alone was enough. He asked young people to focus on skills, innovation and continuous learning, and called on colleges and teachers to prepare students better for emerging employment opportunities. The Lieutenant Governor said the

administration was widening avenues for skilling, entrepreneurship and private-sector hiring so that qualified youth could find work within the Union Territory. He urged students not to limit their ambitions to government jobs and to treat every new skill as an asset in a competitive economy. The job fair brought together employers and job-seekers from across the Valley, part of a series of recruitment drives being held in Jammu and Kashmir to connect educated youth with placements in industry and the services sector.

REGIONAL

Rajouri power grid restoration on war footing after 15 transformers washed away

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Power restoration in flood-ravaged Rajouri is being carried out on a war footing after last week's flash floods caused massive damage to the district's electricity network, officials said. The deluge washed away 15 transformers and damaged roughly 200 others, while numerous electric poles were swept off or severely damaged, disrupting supply across large parts of the district. "Power restoration work is currently underway on a war footing," said Rajouri Power Development Department Executive Engineer Javed Akhtar, adding that electricity had been restored in several areas while work continued in the rest. Senior PDD officers, engineers, field staff and labourers were working around the clock, with additional manpower deployed and local residents pitching in to help repair the damaged lines, Akhtar said. Distribution officials had earlier flagged extensive damage to

33-KV and 11-KV lines at Doongi-Keri, Dhangri and along the Manjakote network, and directed field teams to use available store materials for emergency restoration while completing permanent works. Restoring the grid is central to the wider recovery, as most damaged water-supply schemes in the twin districts cannot resume pumping until electricity returns.

REGIONAL

Poonch damage being assessed, relief package will go to Centre: Dy CM

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said the government is carrying out a detailed assessment of the destruction caused by last week's flash floods in Poonch district and will submit a concrete relief package to the Government of India once the survey is complete. "We are deeply saddened and regret the loss of so many lives in Poonch district," Choudhary said during a visit to the flood-hit belt. He added that the final assessment of the damage was yet to be finished and that a detailed package would be prepared and

forwarded to the Centre thereafter. "We hope that this time also the Government of India will provide full help and compensation," he said. At least seven people died after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the Surankote area on July 20, and officials say the deluge tore through public and private infrastructure across the district. A major motorable bridge at Kallar-Androla over the Munawar river was severely damaged after the floodwaters washed away one of its approach sides, cutting off a link residents had waited more than a decade to see built. A Jal Jeevan Mission water supply structure nearby was destroyed, disrupting drinking water to the area. Choudhary said several areas were still without electricity and piped water and that roads had been damaged at multiple points. He directed the Deputy Commissioner to increase tanker services and to expedite the installation of generators so that water supply could be restored while power lines were being repaired. The Deputy CM said restoring electricity at the earliest remained the administration's priority, since most water-pumping schemes could not run until the grid was back. He assured affected families that the government would stand with them through relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and appealed for patience as damage teams completed their ground verification across Surankote, Mendhar and other subdivisions. Officials said revenue staff had been asked to record every damaged house, shop, road and water scheme so that no affected household was left out of the memorandum to New Delhi. The visit came as the twin districts continued to reel from one of the worst monsoon disasters in years, with search teams still combing the riverbeds for the missing.



REGIONAL

Mughal Road shut again as landslides bury stretches of highway

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The Mughal Road, which links the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian in south Kashmir, was closed to traffic on Saturday following multiple landslides triggered by spells of heavy rain in the Pir Panjal range. Senior Superintendent of Traffic (Mughal Road) Mohd Mahroof said vehicular movement had been suspended as a precaution after debris and landslides were reported at several locations along the highway. Men and machinery were deployed to clear the affected stretches, he said, and the road would be reopened only after it was declared safe for vehicular movement. The 84-km road, which climbs over the 11,500-foot Pir ki Gali, serves as the shorter alternate route between the twin districts and the Kashmir valley, easing dependence on the longer Jammu-Srinagar national highway that itself has been battered by rain-triggered damage this month. Its repeated closure has left commuters, fruit growers and transporters of the Pir Panjal belt stranded during the peak monsoon. Authorities advised commuters and transporters to avoid the route until further orders and to follow advisories issued by the traffic police. A day later, with the weather office warning of more rain, the administration reiterated caution for the Mughal Road along with the Srinagar-Jammu highway and other hill routes across the region. Officials said crews would remain stationed at the vulnerable stretches so that clearance could begin the moment fresh slides came down. For the Pir Panjal belt, the road is more than a shortcut. Growers depending on it to move produce, patients travelling to Srinagar hospitals and traders bound for the valley have all been forced onto longer, costlier detours each time the highway shuts, deepening the sense of



REGIONAL

Old Pul Doda bridge shut for safety check after cracks spotted

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The district administration has closed the Old Pul Doda bridge to traffic for a safety inspection after cracks and surface marks were noticed on the structure following heavy rain and flash floods, officials said. Apprehensions about the bridge surfaced on Sunday evening, prompting the administration and police to suspend vehicular movement immediately as a precaution. The bridge is a key link connecting Doda with Kishtwar, Bhandarwah and Jammu, and its closure has disrupted the movement of commuters and goods vehicles. Public Works Department officials said a preliminary inspection had not revealed any structural damage, describing the visible marks as surface construction overlaps rather than signs of failure. "The decision to suspend movement has been taken purely as a preventive measure," an official said, adding there was no confirmation of structural damage at this stage. The department has requisitioned a team from its Design Inspection and Quality Control wing for a detailed assessment, and the bridge will stay closed until experts certify it safe. Commuters have been diverted to the nearby Ganpat bridge in the meantime.

REGIONAL

Chenab, Tawi and Ujh breach danger mark; Jammu division on flood alert as schools shut

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Chenab, Tawi and Ujh rivers ran above their danger marks after days of monsoon rain, forcing the administration to sound alerts, shut schools and place disaster teams on standb...

The Jammu division stayed on high flood alert through the week as the Chenab, Tawi and Ujh rivers swelled past their danger marks, driven by days of relentless monsoon rain that forced the administration to sound warnings along the banks, suspend classes and place disaster-response teams on standby across at least four districts. The Chenab at Akhnoor touched 35.8 feet around 5 p.m. on Thursday, roughly three notches above its alert level of 32 feet, before the flow began to recede, officials said. District and sub-divisional administrations at Jammu, Akhnoor and Khour sounded the alarm as the level crossed 30 feet, warning residents to stay clear of the swollen river and putting police and State Disaster Response Force teams on alert. The India Meteorological Department recorded some of its heaviest 24-hour rainfall of the season in the region, with Kathua leading at 153.4 mm, followed by Samba at 133 mm and Udhampur at 132.6 mm. The Tawi breached its flood-alert mark in Udhampur, while the Basantar in Samba and the Ujh in Kathua also ran above their danger levels, submerging low-lying stretches and farmland. With connecting roads

vulnerable to landslides and flash floods, education authorities ordered schools closed across several districts, including a multi-day shutdown in Udhampur, as a precaution. Waterlogging disrupted traffic in parts of Jammu city and its outskirts, while power and drinking-water supply were hit in several localities. The National Disaster Response Force cautioned people to avoid water bodies and nullahs until the weather eased. Deputy commissioners activated district control rooms and kept SDRF and civil-defence teams ready with boats and rescue gear, while a few families in the most exposed riverside pockets of Akhnoor and Khour were moved to safer ground, officials said. Rescue helplines were publicised through local networks so that residents could report waterlogging or marooning. Officials said they were monitoring river gauges and coordinating with the irrigation, flood-control and police departments round the clock. The weather office's warning of further heavy showers over the Jammu region kept the alert in place, with administrations advising residents of flood-prone belts to remain vigilant and heed evacuation instructions if issued.

REGIONAL

FDA lifts milk samples in Budgam, Shopian, Pulwama in adulteration drive

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, launched a special enforcement drive against adulteration in milk and milk products, lifting samples from several districts of the Kashmir division, including Budgam, Shopian and Pulwama. Officials said the drive, conducted across the Union Territory, targeted loose milk, khoya, paneer and other dairy products sold in local markets, with enforcement teams collecting samples from vendors and dairy outlets for laboratory testing. The samples have been sent to designated food testing

laboratories, and action under the Food Safety and Standards Act would follow against anyone found selling substandard or adulterated products, the department said. The FDA said the exercise was aimed at curbing the sale of unsafe dairy products, particularly loose milk of uncertain origin, and at reassuring consumers. Officials appealed to the public to buy from licensed sellers and to report suspected adulteration to the department's helpline. Dairy adulteration is a recurring concern in the Valley, and the department said such surprise inspections would continue across districts in the coming weeks.

REGIONAL

Digital excellence centres open in seven Kashmir districts

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Twelve Common Services Centre (CSC) Digital Excellence Centres were e-inaugurated across Jammu and Kashmir, with seven of them coming up in the Kashmir division to take government services closer to people's doorsteps. The centres have been established in Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar and Kulgam in the Valley, along with Kathua, Jammu, Reasi, Ramban and Samba in the Jammu division, officials said. Conceived as dedicated hubs for digital governance, the centres are meant to enhance the capacity of Village



REGIONAL

Fresh landslide at Dewal strands 1,700 trucks on Jammu-Srinagar highway

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

A fresh landslide in the Dewal area of Udhampur district choked the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway early Monday, leaving around 1,700 trucks and scores of passenger vehicles stranded along the strategic 250-km arterial road, officials said. The debris came down amid renewed rainfall, blocking the carriageway and halting movement between Udhampur and Banihal. Traffic was later being cleared through a single lane as men and machinery worked to remove the muck and restore the damaged stretch, according to traffic police. Passenger vehicles were given priority to ease the plight of commuters stuck for hours, officials said, adding that no fresh traffic from Jammu towards Srinagar, Doda, Ramban and Patnitop, or in the opposite direction, would be allowed until the highway was declared safe. The National Highways Authority of India deployed excavators to the site, but frequent shooting stones and slippery slopes slowed the clearance. The highway, the only all-weather road link between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country, has been repeatedly blocked this monsoon by landslides and mudslides at multiple vulnerable points. Authorities advised travellers to check the status of the road with the traffic control units at Udhampur and Ramban before setting out, warning that the fresh spell of rain forecast by the weather office could trigger further slides.



REGIONAL

Declare Poonch, Rajouri damage a 'natural calamity', demands Congress

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Senior Congress leader Shahnawaz Choudhary has urged the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government to declare the widespread rain-induced destruction in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri a "natural calamity" and to sanction a special package for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Choudhary, president of the Poonch District Congress Committee and a former AICC secretary, laid out a graded compensation demand: Rs 20 lakh for every fully damaged house, Rs 10 lakh for a partially damaged house, Rs 5 lakh for families that lost their household belongings and Rs 20 lakh as ex gratia to the next of kin of each person killed. He also sought a substantial allocation from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. He said 18 people had died in Poonch alone since July 19 and five remained missing, with more than 100 houses fully damaged, over 200 partially damaged and 18 families rendered landless. Choudhary criticised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for not visiting the affected areas or offering condolences to bereaved families. "The people of the Pir Panjal region feel abandoned at a time when they need the government's support the most," he said, also faulting the BJP for failing to press the region's case.

REGIONAL

Baglihar dam gates opened as Chenab swells after heavy rain

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Authorities opened gates of the Baglihar hydroelectric project in Ramban to release excess water as the Chenab rose sharply following heavy rain across the Chenab valley.

Authorities opened multiple gates of the Baglihar hydroelectric project on the Chenab in Ramban district on Saturday to regulate a sharp rise in the river's flow triggered by heavy rain across the upper catchments of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, officials said. Three gates of the dam were opened as the reservoir level climbed, allowing the controlled discharge of excess water to maintain the structure's safety, according to project officials. The move followed days of incessant rainfall that had pushed the Chenab well above normal levels through the Chenab valley. Officials said river

flows and weather conditions were being monitored closely, with the power project coordinating with the district administration and flood-control agencies to ensure downstream safety. Residents living along the river were advised to stay away from the banks as the discharge raised water levels further downstream. The opening of the gates, a routine but closely watched monsoon measure, came as the Chenab valley districts reeled under landslides, blocked roads and swollen streams during one of the wettest spells of the season.



REGIONAL

Fresh rain slows relief in flood-hit twin districts; nine still missing

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Fresh rainfall has significantly slowed the restoration of essential services in flood-hit Poonch and Rajouri, even as nine people remained missing five days after the July 19 flash floods, officials said. Of those unaccounted for, eight are from Poonch and one is a Jal Shakti department employee from Rajouri. NDRF, SDRF, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Army teams were conducting joint search operations, with the Army pressing drones into service to scan the swollen riverbeds. Poonch district faced a complete power outage for a fourth consecutive day after a 132-KV transmission line in the Thanamandi sub-division was damaged. Officials said they were hopeful of restoring supply to Poonch by Wednesday late evening or Thursday morning. In Rajouri, the Rajouri-Thanamandi and Rajouri-Manjakote feeders remained hit, with repair teams struggling to cross swollen streams to reach damaged sections. Dozens of water supply schemes were badly affected in the twin districts, with pumping machinery and entire motor rooms washed away at several sites, leaving an acute drinking-water shortage. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Anantnag-Rajouri MP Mian Altaf Ahmad were among those monitoring the relief and search effort on the ground.

REGIONAL

Cloudburst hits Boniyar, dozen villages left without drinking water

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



A cloudburst in the upper reaches of Mayan village in Boniyar, north Kashmir's Baramulla district, triggered flash floods on Wednesday that washed away four culverts, snapped power and drinking water supplies and cut road links to several hamlets. Officials said the torrent of water, mud and boulders severely damaged the Neela Nag water source and its raw water transmission pipelines, leaving around a dozen villages — among them Mayan, Kathal, Muqam Peeran, Braripora, Bijhama, Niloosa, Gingle and Lachipora — without piped drinking water. Police and the civil administration, coordinated by the Tehsildar Boniyar, SDPO Uri and SHO Bijhama, rescued a woman trapped in her home. No casualties were reported. The Indian Army also evacuated several elderly and stranded residents from the Mayan area. "We are hopeful that power

and drinking water services will be restored by Friday, provided the weather remains favourable," Tehsildar Boniyar Mohammad Najbullah Shah said. The Jal Shakti Department, Uri, asked residents to use water sparingly, boil drinking water before consumption and cooperate with field staff carrying out repairs. Authorities urged people to stay away from flooded streams and water channels. The Boniyar belt was among the worst hit as heavy rain lashed the Valley through the week, with the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway also facing intermittent closures due to landslides and shooting stones.

REGIONAL

Jhelum recedes but stays above flood mark at Srinagar

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Water levels in the Jhelum continued to recede at key gauge stations on Friday morning even as the river stayed above the flood declaration mark at Ram Munshi Bagh, offering cautious relief to Srinagar after a week of near-continuous

rain. According to the latest readings of the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department, the river at Ram Munshi Bagh stood at 19.07 feet and was on a declining trend, remaining above the flood declaration mark of 18 feet but well below the danger mark of 21 feet. At Sangam in Anantnag, the gauge read 18.89 feet and was falling, while the level at Pampore was recorded at 5.13 metres, also decreasing. Among the tributaries, the Vishow Nallah was still rising, officials said, while the Rambiar and the Sindh were receding and the Lidder and Doodhganga held steady. Slight increases were noted at Asham and in Wular Lake, but both remained below their respective flood declaration marks. The department advised people living close to riverbanks and embankments to remain vigilant and to follow official advisories, adding that gauges were being monitored round the clock. The MeT office and independent forecasters said light to moderate rain was likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir, with South Kashmir the worst affected and isolated heavy showers possible. "Intense showers cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the risk of flash floods will continue," a forecaster cautioned, with a fresh wet spell expected from July 28. The receding trend came after one of the wettest spells in recent memory, which left at least 28 people dead across the Union Territory and damaged roads, bridges, water and power lines in several districts. District administrations in Srinagar and downstream areas kept control rooms active and dewatering pumps on standby as a precaution.



REGIONAL

Suspected cross-border drones trigger searches in Samba, Kathua

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Security forces launched extensive search operations in the Samba and Kathua districts on Saturday after suspected Pakistani drones were detected near the International Border the previous night, officials said. Army troops spotted a drone-like object over Tarore village in the Vijaypur area of Samba late Friday, while a similar aerial object was noticed over Chak Nalua village in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua, according to the officials. In both cases the objects are believed to have flown back across the border into Pakistan after briefly hovering over the forward villages. Counter-drone measures were activated and troops, backed by police, combed the surrounding fields and orchards to check whether the drones had dropped any payload of narcotics or arms, a recurring tactic along the frontier, officials said. Surveillance along the International Border has been intensified in view of the repeated drone activity, they added, with additional patrols and night monitoring deployed in the border belts of the two districts.

NATIONAL

Monsoon Session gridlocked as NEET row and lathi-charge spill onto House floor

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Both Houses were adjourned repeatedly through the week as the opposition demanded Pradhan's ouster and a debate on the July 22 police action against student protesters. The deadloc...

Parliament's Monsoon Session remained gridlocked through the week as the NEET paper-leak agitation and the July 22 police lathi-charge on student protesters spilled onto the floor of both Houses. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned repeatedly for a fourth consecutive day, with opposition members raising slogans and demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as a precondition for any debate. The government insisted it was ready to discuss the NEET row without preconditions. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi alleged that thousands of young protesters had been subjected to pellet firing and lathi charges despite holding a peaceful demonstration, and pressed for accountability for the police action. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju countered that the Congress and its allies were "trying to run away" from a discussion by

attaching conditions, insisting members could speak "for as long as they wished." Around 65 opposition MPs wrote to hunger-striking reformer Sonam Wangchuk pledging support. Amid the standoff, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced fast-track courts for paper-leak cases under the Public Examinations Act. The turmoil was not confined to Delhi. Assemblies in opposition-ruled states saw their own disruptions over the agitation, while the capital witnessed the closure of nearly two dozen metro stations and the deployment of additional CRPF companies as authorities braced for a "Chalo Sansad" march toward Parliament. The deadlock eased only after Pradhan submitted his resignation on July 25, meeting the opposition's central demand and partly defusing the confrontation that had paralysed the session since it convened.

NATIONAL

Assam reels as Brahmaputra floods kill scores, displace over seven lakh

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Brahmaputra and its tributaries burst their banks across upper Assam this week, killing at least 50 people by Friday, July 24, and displacing about 700,000, officials said, in one of the state's most destructive monsoon spells in recent years. By the weekend the toll had climbed past 60 and more than seven lakh residents across 11 districts were affected, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. Sivasagar was the worst hit, with nearly 3.5 lakh people affected, followed by Charaideo and Jorhat. Nearly 900 villages were submerged and more than 7,000 homes lost power, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Floodwaters reached parts of Guwahati on Thursday evening, leaving commuters stranded for hours on inundated roads. Rescue work was

being carried out "on a war footing," Sarma said, with 250 National Disaster Response Force personnel, 36 NDRF boats and 65 state disaster and fire-service craft deployed alongside three Army boats and scores of country boats. The Indian Air Force flew 29 sorties, air-dropping more than 4,100 relief packages to marooned communities. Nearly 300,000 people had been moved into government-run relief camps, officials said. Even so, the chief minister acknowledged that relief had not reached an estimated 80,000 people in cut-off pockets, including about 50,000 around Nazira and 30,000 in Sivasagar, where nearly a fifth of the population in the worst-hit blocks remained stranded. An inter-ministerial team from the Centre arrived on July 25 to assess the damage and firm up assistance. The Brahmaputra, which rises in Tibet and runs some 900 km through Assam, floods stretches of the state most years, but officials said the speed of this surge caught many riverine communities unprepared. Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, touring affected areas, called the situation "very serious" and said the Centre and state were carrying out relief jointly. The Assam disaster was the deadliest front of a monsoon that has battered much of the country this month, with more than 50 people killed in rain-related incidents from the Himalayas to the northern plains, including landslide deaths in neighbouring Nagaland.

NATIONAL

Cabinet clears Rs 3,030-crore chemical parks scheme, new railway lines

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Union Cabinet on July 24 approved a Rs 3,030-crore scheme to develop three dedicated chemical parks and cleared new railway lines on an economic corridor linking Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan, or BHAVYA Rasayan, the government will set up three parks with shared infrastructure to lower logistics costs and improve the competitiveness of the domestic chemicals industry. Of the total outlay, Rs 3,000 crore is earmarked for infrastructure and Rs 30 crore for administration, with the scheme running from 2026-27 to 2030-31, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said. The Cabinet also approved construction of third and fourth railway



NATIONAL

Supreme Court proposes special courts for day-to-day Manipur violence trials

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The Supreme Court on July 24 said it would tentatively propose constituting special courts to conduct day-to-day trials in cases arising from the ethnic violence in Manipur, and directed investigating agencies to expedite pending probes. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana said the special courts would be set up in consultation with the Manipur government and the Manipur and Gauhati High Courts, so that long-delayed prosecutions could be taken up without further loss of time. The Central Bureau of Investigation told the court it had filed 21 chargesheets in the cases handled by it. State-constituted Special Investigation Teams, probing more than 3,000 cases across eight districts, reported that 301 chargesheets had been filed and that trials had begun in 10 matters. The CBI said examination of witnesses had become difficult because many had been displaced by the violence. The bench directed legal services authorities and legal-aid counsel to supply copies of chargesheets to victims and their families within a week of being approached, noting earlier complaints of non-compliance. It sought fresh status reports on the progress of investigations and trials. Manipur has been riven by ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities since May 2023, which has left more than 250 people dead and tens of thousands displaced. The court has been monitoring relief, rehabilitation and prosecution in the state through a series of orders.



NATIONAL

DRDO test-fires 'Kusha' long-range air-defence missile in maiden trial

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday carried out the first flight-test of the indigenous Kusha long-range surface-to-air missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast, striking an electronic target that mimicked a high-speed, high-altitude aerial threat. Officials said the interceptor met all mission parameters, with radars, the launcher and control systems tracking and engaging the simulated target through the full flight profile. Kusha is the centrepiece of a home-grown air-defence programme meant to shield Indian airspace against fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones and precision-guided munitions. Under Project Kusha, DRDO is building three interceptors, able to engage targets at 150 km, 250 km and up to about 400 km, a spread often compared with the Russian S-400 system that India already operates. Once deployed, the layered network is expected to give the armed forces an indigenous shield across low, medium and long ranges, with induction planned later this decade. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the scientists and the industry partners involved, calling the trial a major milestone that would cut import dependence and mark a "giant leap" in the country's air-defence capability. The maiden test clears the way for further trials before series production begins.

NATIONAL

Murmu caps Europe tour with historic Romania state visit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



President Droupadi Murmu began a three-day visit to Romania, the first by an Indian head of state in nearly three decades, closing a three-nation European tour.

President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Bucharest on Thursday for a three-day state visit to Romania, the final leg of a three-nation European tour that had already taken her to Moldova and North Macedonia. It is the first visit by an Indian head of state to Romania in nearly three decades, and officials cast it as an attempt to revive a long but under-used partnership. Over the course of the trip, Murmu held talks with Romanian President Nicusor Dan and was set to meet interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, Senate President Mircea Abrudeanu and Chamber of Deputies President Sorin Grindeanu. The two sides agreed to deepen trade and investment, build more resilient supply chains and work toward doubling bilateral commerce over the next three years. Talks spanned trade, technology, innovation, education,

culture and people-to-people links, sectors that both governments say have grown slowly despite decades of ties. India and Romania mark 80 years of diplomatic relations in 2028. Murmu laid a wreath at Bucharest's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, toured the Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum and planted a sapling under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, an environmental drive she has carried through each leg of the tour. The visit underlined New Delhi's widening outreach across Central and Eastern Europe, a region where India has stepped up engagement on trade, defence and connectivity. Days earlier, Murmu became the first Indian president to set foot in North Macedonia, where she addressed the national assembly and a business forum.

NATIONAL

Navy commissions indigenous anti-submarine craft INS Malvan at Karwar

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The Indian Navy on July 22 commissioned INS Malvan, an indigenously designed and built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft, at the naval base in Karwar, adding to a growing fleet of homegrown warships raised under the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push. INS Malvan is the second ship of the Mahe class of anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft and the sixth of 16 such vessels planned for induction into the Navy. The 78-metre craft was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, and carries more than 80 per cent indigenous content, the Navy said in a statement. The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, with Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan and senior naval officers in attendance. Officials described the induction as a milestone in India's

effort to build its own underwater surveillance and coastal defence capability, and a marker of the deepening role of domestic shipyards in warship construction. Displacing about 900 tonnes and capable of speeds of up to 25 knots, INS Malvan is designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow coastal waters, underwater surveillance, mine-laying and search-and-rescue missions. The ship has a range of about 1,800 nautical miles. The Mahe-class vessels are intended to replace the ageing Abhay-class corvettes and to strengthen the Navy's littoral warfare fleet. Named after the coastal town of Malvan in Maharashtra, the ship reflects the maritime heritage of the Konkan coast, the Navy said. Its induction comes as India accelerates domestic shipbuilding to cut dependence on imported platforms and to equip its yards for larger orders. The Mahe-class ships are being constructed by Cochin Shipyard under a contract for eight vessels, of which Malvan is the second to enter service. Naval planners say the shallow water craft are central to protecting harbours and near-shore approaches against submarine threats, particularly along India's western and eastern seaboard, where undersea activity has grown in recent years.

NATIONAL

Heavy rain floods Delhi streets even as showers deliver cleanest air in years

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Heavy monsoon rain lashed Delhi and its suburbs on Tuesday, flooding roads and stranding commuters, even as the downpours scrubbed the capital's notoriously foul air to its cleanest reading in three years. Barakhamba Road, rarely prone to flooding, saw vehicles left half-submerged, while water entered shops along the outer circle of Connaught Place, disrupting the commercial heart of the city. The Central Pollution Control Board recorded an Air Quality Index of 77, in the 'satisfactory' category, as rain washed dust and pollutants from the air; readings in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad also fell into the satisfactory range. The showers pulled down daytime temperatures and offered residents a rare stretch of clean air in a city that battles hazardous smog each winter. The India



NATIONAL

Nation marks 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas; leaders honour war heroes

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

India on July 26 observed the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas, honouring the soldiers who fought in the 1999 Kargil War, as the country's top leadership paid tribute to those who died in Operation Vijay. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the tributes. Modi said the nation remembered the courage and sacrifice of the armed forces and their unwavering devotion to duty in extraordinarily difficult conditions on the heights of Kargil. Rajnath Singh attended the commemorative event at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, where wreaths were laid in memory of the fallen. He said India's armed forces remained fully prepared to defend the country's borders against any threat. The day at Drass also marked the culmination of the Shaurya Vijay Yatra, a roughly 1,900-kilometre motorcycle expedition that began on July 14 from the National War Memorial in Delhi and travelled to the war memorial in Ladakh. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on July 26 to mark India's victory in the 1999 conflict along the Line of Control.



NATIONAL

Reviving monsoon lifts summer crop sowing, narrows planting gap

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

A revival in monsoon rains has accelerated the planting of summer-sown crops such as cotton, soybean and rice, sharply cutting a sowing shortfall that had worried farmers after a weak start to the season, government data showed. The monsoon arrived three days late and stalled over key western farming regions for about two weeks, but widespread rains over the past few weeks have narrowed the countrywide rainfall deficit to 16 percent, from nearly 40 percent at the end of June, the India Meteorological Department said. Summer crop sowing, nearly a quarter below year-earlier levels in late June, is now less than 5 percent short. Farmers had planted soybean on 11.4 million hectares, down 3 percent from a year earlier, while cotton area slipped 4 percent to 9.87 million hectares and corn fell nearly 10 percent, agriculture ministry figures showed. Sugarcane area rose 1.5 percent to 5.76 million hectares. Overall, farmers had sown summer crops on 78.7 million hectares as of July 24, against 82.6 million a year earlier. Some regions still faced rainfall deficits of as much as 40 percent, officials cautioned, and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had earlier said stronger July rains would be crucial to closing the kharif gap.

BUSINESS

India-US tariff truce lapses as trade pact stalls at 'last one per cent'

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



A temporary US tariff arrangement expired on July 24 without a signed trade deal, sending most Indian exports back to standard duties as New Delhi opted to hold its position rather...

India and the United States entered the weekend without a signed trade pact, after a temporary American tariff arrangement lapsed on July 24 and negotiators left the first phase of a bilateral agreement parked, by their own description, at the 'last one per cent' of its legal text. The window that expired was a temporary 10 per cent across-the-board levy Washington imposed in February under Section 122 of the US Trade Act. That provision carries a statutory 150-day limit, and the emergency duty lapsed automatically on July 24 rather than being renewed. With it gone, most Indian goods reverted to normal most-favoured-nation duties, alongside a standing 10 per cent Section 301 levy, while steel and automobiles remained under the steeper Section 232 regime. India said it would keep talking. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has framed the negotiations around securing improved market access for Indian goods and tariff terms at least as favourable as those won by ASEAN competitors such as Vietnam. Officials on both sides insist

the deal is close; recurring claims that it has already been signed remain unconfirmed by any sourced report. New Delhi's calculation through the week was to hold out for durable competitive access rather than negotiate to a calendar. India, negotiators argued, could afford to wait, having concluded trade agreements with the United Kingdom and the European Union that widen its options. The two governments continue to target 'Mission 500' - doubling two-way trade to \$500 billion by 2030 - and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has remained India's principal counterpart. For exporters, the immediate effect is a return to the pre-escalation baseline rather than a fresh shock. Labour-intensive sectors that employ millions - textiles, gems and jewellery, leather - and higher-value pharmaceutical and electronics shipments still face the retained Section 301 duty, leaving the cost of the unfinished 'last one per cent' to be settled in the weeks ahead.

BUSINESS

Sensex sheds 715 points as oil spike, West Asia tension rattle markets

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Indian equities tumbled on Wednesday, with the Nifty 50 slipping below the 24,000 mark, as a fresh spike in crude oil prices and renewed geopolitical tension in West Asia soured sentiment across the market. The benchmark BSE Sensex closed 715 points, or 0.92 per cent, lower at 76,755, while the National Stock Exchange's Nifty 50 shed 191 points, or 0.79 per cent, to end at 23,996. The selling was broad-based, though gains in automobile and consumer-goods shares cushioned the fall. The trigger was oil. Brent crude pushed above \$92 a barrel after renewed escalation in the US-Iran confrontation stoked fears of supply

disruptions and threats to key shipping lanes - a particular worry for India, which imports the bulk of its crude and sees its trade and inflation math strained by costlier energy. Rate-sensitive and cyclical pockets bore the brunt. Media, realty, public-sector banks and information-technology shares led the decline, with the Nifty Media index the day's worst performer. Analysts said investors were turning defensive ahead of the trade-deadline week and a busy run of corporate earnings.

BUSINESS

J&K start-up summit ends with early funding for Srinagar ventures

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Jammu and Kashmir's largest start-up gathering, ASCEND J&K 2026, closed at

the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre here with early investment commitments for a clutch of local ventures, in a push to deepen the Union Territory's fledgling entrepreneurial base. Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute under the Industries and Commerce Department, the summit put 20 J&K start-ups before 14 investors and investment networks. Seven were shortlisted for further due diligence, opening the door to funding and mentoring, organisers said. Two Srinagar-based ventures secured about Rs 1 crore between them. EcoBuddy, a waste-management and eco-friendly packaging firm founded by Muhammad Farukh Usman, drew backing from LetsVenture, while electric-mobility start-up Curve Electric attracted commitments from the Build3 accelerator and an angel investor. Sessions included an investment-readiness masterclass and panels urging closer ties between academia, industry, government institutions and incubation centres. The event followed J&K's placement among the 'emerging performers' in NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index earlier in July, as the administration courts capital for tourism, horticulture, food processing and technology.



BUSINESS

InMobi lines up \$1 billion IPO as listing pipeline swells

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Adtech firm InMobi has lined up its long-awaited stock market debut, appointing four investment banks to steer a public offering the company hopes will raise about \$1 billion, in the latest sign of a reviving pipeline of large Indian listings. The Bengaluru-based group, among India's earlier technology unicorns, has named JPMorgan Chase, Jefferies, Kotak Mahindra Capital and Axis Capital to manage the issue, with a listing expected in the coming months. The move adds to a crowded queue of new-economy companies testing public markets after a buoyant first half of 2026. Travel platform MakeMyTrip has confidentially filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an offering targeting more than \$1 billion, while quick-commerce firm Zepto is drawing strong institutional interest for a roughly \$800 million issue that would value it at about \$5.1 billion. India recorded well over 100 IPOs in the first seven months of the year, and start-ups have raised billions in fresh equity, as founders and early backers seek exits and domestic funds deploy record inflows. Bankers caution that pricing discipline will determine how many of the planned listings actually reach the market.



BUSINESS

Infosys profit rises on \$3.8 billion deal haul as IT earnings season opens

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Infosys, India's second-largest software exporter, reported a rise in first-quarter profit on Thursday, as a heavy pipeline of large outsourcing contracts steadied a sector still navigating cautious client spending in its major Western markets. Consolidated net profit for the June quarter rose about 8.7 per cent from a year earlier to Rs 6,921 crore, the company said, while revenue climbed to Rs 42,279 crore, up roughly 7.5 per cent year-on-year. Sequentially, profit slipped 1.9 per cent from the preceding quarter's Rs 7,033 crore even as revenue edged 3.3 per cent higher. The bright spot was deal-making. Infosys said it signed large deals with a total contract value of about \$3.8 billion during the quarter, a figure closely watched as a proxy for future revenue and a sign that enterprise clients are still committing to multi-year technology and cost programmes despite an uncertain global demand outlook. The results, released after market hours, are among the first of the Q1 earnings season for India's information-technology bellwethers, whose dollar-denominated export revenue makes them a barometer of both corporate IT budgets abroad and the rupee's trajectory. The sector has spent recent quarters absorbing softer discretionary spending from banking, retail and manufacturing customers in the United States and Europe. Investors were also weighing the read-across for peers reporting through the season, with margins, attrition and full-year revenue guidance in focus as companies balance wage costs against pricing pressure and the early commercial impact of automation on traditional services.

Kitna peeta
hai Malkeet!



TECHNOLOGY

Samsung expands foldable line to three models with Z Fold8 Ultra

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



At its July Galaxy Unpacked, Samsung added a premium Fold8 Ultra to its foldable range and raised prices, positioning the line ahead of Apple's expected entry into folding phones.

Samsung Electronics unveiled a wider foldable smartphone line-up at its Galaxy Unpacked event on July 22, adding a premium Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra alongside a redesigned Galaxy Z Fold8 and a new clamshell Galaxy Z Flip8. The three-model strategy marks a shift for the South Korean firm, which had previously fielded a single flagship "Fold" each year. The standard Z Fold8 gains a wider outer display and, according to launch coverage, a starting price of about \$1,899 apiece — part of an across-the-range price rise that several outlets flagged. Indian pricing and availability were announced alongside the global reveal. Analysts framed the

launch as a defensive move ahead of Apple's long-rumoured first folding iPhone, expected as soon as later this year. Samsung, which brought foldables into the mainstream in 2019, remains the segment's biggest seller but faces mounting pressure from Chinese rivals such as Honor and Oppo. The company leaned on its Galaxy AI features, pitching the thinner, lighter devices as tools that can summarise notes, translate live conversation and edit photos on the fly across the larger folding canvas. Pre-orders opened the same day, with retail sales set to follow in the weeks ahead.



TECHNOLOGY

5G now covers 99.9% of districts, government tells Rajya Sabha

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

India's 5G network now reaches 99.9 per cent of the country's districts, with the number of 5G base stations rising almost fourfold in a little over three years, the government told the Rajya Sabha. In a written reply, Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said the count of 5G Base Transceiver Stations had climbed from 1,40,623 at the end of March 2023 to 5,62,971 as of June 30, 2026. Around 24,000 mobile towers have been commissioned under the Digital Bharat Nidhi and the 4G saturation scheme to connect previously unserved villages. The minister said 136 research projects worth about Rs 543 crore had been sanctioned under the Telecom Technology Development Fund, spanning 6G, quantum communication, satellite and non-terrestrial networks and an indigenous 5G core. India is also expanding the BharatNet rural broadband backbone and offering production-linked incentives to build domestic telecom gear. The disclosures underline the government's ambition to move from 5G adoption to shaping the agenda on 6G, where it aims to hold a meaningful share of global patents by the end of the decade.

TECHNOLOGY

DRDO checks claim of 31 GB data on sale on dark web

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



A threat actor has put 31 gigabytes of data purportedly stolen from the Defence Research and Development Organisation up for sale on the dark web for \$8,000, triggering a verification exercise by the country's premier military research agency. The listing, flagged by intelligence agencies over the weekend and reported on Monday, includes sample files that appear to detail the internal electronics architecture of an advanced guidance sensor of the kind used in precision-guided missiles and smart munitions — material that would be highly sensitive if genuine. DRDO sources said the claim was still being examined and that no official breach had been confirmed. Several of the leaked sample documents are dated 2020, leaving investigators uncertain whether the cache reflects a fresh intrusion or the

recycling of an older theft. "What we are seeing now could even be from an old data breach," an intelligence official was quoted as saying. "Ransomware groups often steal data and release it in phases to extort money." The alert was raised by a Kerala-based cyber-intelligence firm that monitors dark-web marketplaces. Security researchers urged a full forensic audit to establish the origin and scope of the material, warning that even dated design data on missile subsystems could aid adversaries. The episode lands amid a broader surge in cyberattacks on Indian strategic targets; a separate leak this month exposed thousands of files linked to the Kudankulam nuclear plant, an incident the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team is investigating.

TECHNOLOGY

India delivers first home-built expendable jet engine for missiles

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



India has taken a step towards self-reliance in a critical defence technology with the delivery of its first indigenously designed expendable turbo-jet engine in the 350-kg thrust class, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said this week. Designed by the Bengaluru-based Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), a DRDO laboratory, the engine was manufactured by the Hyderabad private aerospace firm Azad Engineering and handed over on July 22. It is meant to power single-use platforms such as long-range cruise missiles, loitering munitions and target drones. Small jet engines of this class have long been an import bottleneck, with India relying on suppliers in countries such as Ukraine, France and Russia. Officials said domestic production would cut costs, shorten supply chains and free strategic programmes from foreign export controls. Only a handful of nations make jet engines across all thrust classes at home. The project was cited as a model of public-private collaboration under the Make-in-India defence push, capping years of design, testing and qualification work. Officials indicated that future variants of cruise-missile systems could eventually be fitted with the home-built engine.



TECHNOLOGY

Government to back 20 home-grown AI models under IndiaAI Mission

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

India will bankroll 20 home-grown foundation artificial-intelligence models, including 12 large language models and eight smaller task-specific systems, under the government's flagship IndiaAI Mission, Parliament was told on Wednesday. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply, said the shortlisted proposals were picked to build "sovereign" AI capacity — models trained on Indian data, in Indian languages and hosted on domestic compute rather than borrowed from foreign platforms. The push, he said, is aimed at creating economic opportunities and employment for the young while guarding against the risks that unregulated AI can pose. Among the ventures named by the minister are Sarvam AI, Gnani.AI, BharatGen and Avataar.AI, a mix of start-ups and research consortia working on everything from conversational assistants to voice and video generation. Alongside the large models, the government is backing domain-specific small language models tuned for healthcare, Indian-language translation and so-called agentic systems that carry out multi-step tasks with limited human supervision. To feed the computing appetite of such projects, Mr Vaishnaw said 15 cloud and compute service providers had been empanelled and more than 93 lakh GPU hours sanctioned for research and development, with 237 projects supported so far. The subsidised compute is meant to lower the entry barrier for Indian teams that cannot afford the graphics-processing hardware on which modern AI is trained. The IndiaAI Mission, approved in 2024 with an outlay of more than Rs 10,000 crore, spans seven pillars — compute, foundation models, datasets, application development, skilling, start-up financing and safe-

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HEALTH

IIT Jodhpur team maps brain waves to flag memory loss early

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Researchers at the institute's Cognitive Brain Dynamics Lab say EEG and MEG signatures could aid earlier diagnosis of cognitive decline and sharpen speech perception for people wit...

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur say they have mapped brain-wave patterns that could help detect memory loss early and sharpen how people with hearing difficulties understand speech, in research made public this week. The work, from the institute's Cognitive Brain Dynamics Lab, uses EEG, MEG and functional MRI to trace the neural signatures that separate healthy ageing from cognitive decline. The team, led by Dipanjan Roy, a professor at the School of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, said the markers could aid earlier diagnosis of conditions such as mild cognitive impairment and frontotemporal dementia. In a

parallel strand, the researchers showed that mild electrical stimulation of the brain can change how it fuses sound and vision during speech, a finding they said could feed assistive technologies for people with hearing disorders. Other studies flagged neural markers tied to depression, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder across age groups. "The human brain is arguably the most complex system known to science," Roy said. The projects are funded through grants from the Union Ministry of Education. With India's population ageing, specialists warn of a rising dementia burden that routine screening often misses in time.

HEALTH

BRICS health ministers adopt declaration on resilient health systems in Chandigarh

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Health ministers and senior officials from the BRICS bloc adopted a joint declaration on strengthening public health systems as the grouping's 16th health ministers' meeting concluded in Chandigarh on Thursday, capping three days of talks held under India's BRICS chairship. The meeting, which ran from July 22 to 24, brought together delegations from the bloc's member countries to work through a shared agenda on health security, pandemic preparedness and access to medicines. India hosted the session under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The centrepiece was the unanimous adoption of the 16th BRICS

Health Ministerial Declaration, which members described as a commitment to build resilient, equitable and people-centred health systems. The text reaffirmed support for universal health coverage and set out cooperation on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Ministers also agreed to deepen work on digital health, regulatory cooperation and collaborative research, and to jointly tackle both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The declaration flagged mental health and healthy lifestyles, traditional medicine and equitable access to affordable medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical technologies as priorities for the year

ahead. For India, the meeting was one of the more visible outcomes of its 2026 chairship of the grouping. Officials said the discussions built on earlier BRICS commitments to local manufacturing of vaccines and diagnostics, an area India has pushed as a way of reducing dependence on imports during health emergencies. Delegates also took up ways to expand the sharing of research and health technologies among the member states. The Chandigarh talks came as India, like several member states, contends with a rising burden of lifestyle diseases alongside seasonal outbreaks of vector-borne illness. Public health specialists have argued that pooling research and



HEALTH

Dengue tightens grip as malaria, kala-azar recede in monsoon season

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Dengue has cemented its place as India's most widespread mosquito-borne disease even as older scourges such as malaria and kala-azar retreat, according to national surveillance data cited this week as the monsoon drove up seasonal infections. Figures from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control show the country logged 636,204 dengue cases and 877 deaths between 2023 and 2025. Tamil Nadu recorded the heaviest load in 2025 with 20,866 cases, ahead of Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. Malaria, by contrast, has fallen by close to 60 per cent, from 4.30 lakh cases in 2018 to 1.74 lakh in 2022, while kala-azar dropped from 4,539 cases to 881 over the same period and is now confined largely to Bihar and neighbouring states. Doctors warn the gains are being offset by a swelling burden of non-communicable disease, with national screening flagging more than 7 crore people with hypertension and 4.68 crore with diabetes. The data landed days after India's drug regulator cleared the country's first dengue vaccine for use in those aged four to 60.



HEALTH

ACB holds free health screening camp for staff in Jammu

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau held a free health screening camp for its staff and their families at its Sidhra headquarters on Saturday, part of a preventive care drive run with the voluntary group Healing Hands. The camp, which opened at 8 a.m., offered free consultations, diagnostic tests and health counselling. A panel of eight specialists took part, among them physicians and a cardiologist, nephrologist, gastroenterologist, ophthalmologist, dentist and surgeon, allowing employees to be checked across a range of conditions in a single sitting. ACB Director Shakti Kumar Pathak said the initiative was meant to encourage early diagnosis and timely treatment, and to promote preventive health among the bureau's workforce and their dependants. Organisers said it was the 22nd such screening camp mounted by Healing Hands as part of its community outreach. Workplace health camps have become a common feature across government departments in Jammu and Kashmir, offering staff access to specialist consultations that can be hard to secure quickly through crowded public hospitals.

INTERNATIONAL

Bolsonaro's son named Brazil poll candidate to take on Lula

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Brazil's Liberal Party named Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, son of jailed former president Jair Bolsonaro, as its challenger to President Lula in October's election.

Brazil's right-wing Liberal Party on Friday formally nominated Senator Flavio Bolsonaro as its candidate for October's presidential election, handing the mantle to the eldest son of jailed former president Jair Bolsonaro. Flavio, 45, a senator for Rio de Janeiro, was anointed by his father, who is serving a 27-year sentence under house arrest after being convicted of plotting a coup following his 2022 defeat. He will challenge incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 80, who is seeking a fourth term. "I may be calmer, more composed and moderate, but Bolsonaro blood flows here,"

Flavio told the party convention, warning that Brazil could "take giant strides toward a dictatorship" under a re-elected Lula. Argentine President Javier Milei attended in person to endorse him, saying he saw no one else "capable of putting an end to the Lula risk." Recent polling put Lula ahead 48 percent to 43 percent in a likely runoff. Flavio enters the race trailing and dogged by scandals over banking ties and by the fallout from steep U.S. tariffs on Brazilian exports. The first round of voting is set for October 4.

INTERNATIONAL

India joins SCO ministers in Kyrgyzstan as Gulf crisis dominates

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation gathered in Kyrgyzstan on Friday for a Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that laid the groundwork for the bloc's leaders' summit, with the Gulf crisis and regional security dominating the agenda. India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, who reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Security, Connectivity and Opportunity" as the guiding framework for cooperation among the 10-member grouping and voiced support for Kyrgyzstan's chairmanship. On the sidelines, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, urging that "the door to negotiations, once opened, should not be closed" and pressing for a proper handling of tensions over the Strait of Hormuz. Beijing, which calls itself

Tehran's "comprehensive strategic partner," reiterated support for Iran's sovereignty. The meeting, held as US-Iran hostilities paused, brought together the top diplomats of India, China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran and the Central Asian states. It served as the final preparatory session before the SCO heads-of-state summit, due in Bishkek on Aug 31-Sept 1.

INTERNATIONAL

US halts Iran bombing to give talks a chance as oil prices tumble

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



The United States paused its bombing campaign against Iran for a second straight night, President Donald Trump said Monday, offering diplomacy a narrow window to end a war that has convulsed the Gulf and rattled global oil markets. Trump said he had halted the strikes to give negotiations "space" to progress, after 13 consecutive nights of bombardment of Iranian targets. He cautioned, however, that he was prepared to authorise "very strong

military action" if the talks collapsed. The pause coincided with a visit by Omani officials to Tehran on Friday. Muscat has emerged as the principal mediator, with Qatar and Pakistan also working to bridge the gap between Washington and Tehran and to agree a mechanism for managing shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the artery for a fifth of the world's oil. Iran struck a more guarded tone. "We have no negotiations with the United States at present," a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday, insisting that its only talks were with Oman over the management of vessel traffic through the strait. The conflict, which reignited this month after a spring ceasefire collapsed, has drawn in the wider Gulf. Iran had earlier launched drones at US military facilities in Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, while Houthi allies tightened a blockade on Red Sea shipping, pushing regional tensions to their highest in years. Markets read the lull as relief. Global oil prices posted their steepest fall since April, with Brent crude closing down more than 11 per cent, easing fears of a wider supply shock. The de-escalation carries direct stakes for India, which imports the bulk of its crude through the Gulf and is home to millions of migrant workers across the region. New Delhi has repeatedly urged restraint and pressed for the Strait of Hormuz to stay open. Whether the fragile pause holds, officials on all sides conceded, would depend on the coming days of talks.



INTERNATIONAL

At least 21 killed as Russia and Ukraine trade heaviest blows in weeks

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

At least 21 people were killed as Russia and Ukraine traded some of their heaviest blows in weeks, officials on both sides said Friday, in a fresh spasm of violence that underscored how far a negotiated peace remains. The deadliest single strike hit the Kyiv region, where a Russian missile slammed into a defence-industry event, killing 10 people and wounding more than 100, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Prosecutor General Ruslan Kravchenko said an investigation would "establish who made the decision to hold the event" in the open. Five more people were killed and nine wounded in Sloviansk by Russian aviation bombs, while a drone attack in the Mykolaiv region damaged two civilian vessels without casualties. "Russians attack our cities daily," said Donetsk regional governor Vadym Filashkin, urging residents near the front to evacuate. Ukraine's own strikes reached deep into Russian territory. Six people were killed and 26 injured in an attack on a factory in the Kirov region, local authorities said, part of a wave of Ukrainian drone assaults that also targeted warehouses near Saint Petersburg and in Crimea. Analysts noted the unusual daytime timing of the Russian barrage. The exchanges came as diplomacy faltered, with successive rounds of talks failing to yield a durable ceasefire more than three years into the invasion.



INTERNATIONAL

PML-N sweeps first phase of Pakistan-administered Kashmir polls

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Pakistan's ruling PML-N swept the first phase of elections to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly, winning nine of the 13 seats in the Mirpur division, unofficial results showed after polling on Monday. The Pakistan Peoples Party took the remaining four seats in the region, which India regards as part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Former prime minister Imran Khan's PTI and other contenders were shut out, and turnout was reported to be lower than in previous polls. Federal minister Attaullah Tarar said the outcome reflected "the public's confidence in PML-N's leadership" and backing for the development agenda of Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The vote was, however, clouded by mutual allegations of rigging between the PML-N and the PPP, and one death was reported during polling. The staggered election is being held in three phases under a revised schedule: the Muzaffarabad division and refugee constituencies vote on Aug 2, followed by the Poonch (Rawalakot) division on Aug 10. New Delhi has consistently rejected Pakistani electoral exercises in the territory as illegitimate.

SPORTS

Pogacar equals all-time record with fifth Tour de France crown

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar rode into Paris to seal his fifth Tour de France title, drawing level with cycling's greatest names, as the 2026 race went down as the fastest edition in t...

Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar sealed the fifth Tour de France title of his career on Sunday, riding into Paris in the yellow jersey to join an exclusive club of cycling's all-time greats and cap another season of near-total dominance. The UAE Team Emirates-XRG rider finished 6 minutes 26 seconds clear of Belgium's Remco Evenepoel over three weeks and 21 stages, a commanding margin that underlined his control of the race. Victory drew Pogacar level with Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain, the only other men to have won cycling's greatest race five times. The 2026

edition also entered the record books as the fastest Tour ever staged, with Pogacar completing the route at an average speed of 43.227 kilometres per hour. Dutch star Mathieu van der Poel took the honours on the traditional final stage on the Champs-Élysées. Denmark's Mads Pedersen claimed the green points jersey, Ecuador's Richard Carapaz the polka-dot jersey as King of the Mountains, and Mexico's Isaac del Toro the white jersey as the race's best young rider. The result capped a near-flawless three weeks for the 27-year-old Slovenian.



SPORTS

Sarvesh Kushare soars to India's first high jump medal at Glasgow

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Sarvesh Kushare rewrote the record books for Indian athletics at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, clearing 2.25 metres to win silver in the men's high jump and become the first Indian ever to reach the podium in the event at the Games. The 31-year-old from Devargaon village in Maharashtra's Nashik district produced a composed series at the Scotstoun arena, going over 2.25m to edge into the medal places in a tightly contested final. The result marked a breakthrough for a discipline in which India had never previously figured at the Commonwealth Games. Kushare arrived in Glasgow in the form of his life. Earlier in the season he had set a national record of 2.31m at the Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar, becoming the first Indian to clear the 2.30m barrier and stamping himself as a genuine podium contender. His silver added to India's growing medal tally at the Games, a rare track-and-field highlight to sit alongside the country's dominant weightlifting returns as the athletics programme moved towards its closing days. The medal offered further proof of the depth India is building in field events beyond its traditional track strengths.

SPORTS

Sharmila Dhankar ends India's 20-year wait with historic para gold at Glasgow

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026



India secured a place in the record books at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games as shot-putter Sharmila Dhankar clinched the country's first-ever para-athletics gold medal, ending a two-decade wait for a podium finish in the discipline. Competing in the women's shot put F57 final at Scotstoun Stadium, the 40-year-old produced a season-best throw of 9.81 metres to finish comfortably clear of Ghana's Zinabu Issah, who took silver with 8.65m. Dhankar, who was affected by polio at the age of two and took up athletics only at 34, becomes India's first para-athletics gold medallist at the Games. The moment was made sweeter minutes later when Shilpa K Shyla was upgraded to bronze in the same event following a disqualification, handing India its first

double podium in a single para-athletics event at the Commonwealth Games. "I am extremely happy to win a medal for my country. I feel really proud, and I will continue bringing glory to the nation," Dhankar said. The gold headlined a productive stretch for the 122-strong Indian contingent. Weightlifting has remained the standout discipline, contributing the bulk of the tally, while the athletics track added a landmark silver through high jumper Sarvesh Kushare, the first Indian to finish runner-up in the men's high jump at the Games with a clearance of 2.25m. By the close of play India had gathered ten medals — two gold, five silver and three bronze — to sit eighth on the standings, with the marquee athletics events, including Neeraj Chopra's

javelin campaign, still to come before the Games conclude on August 2. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led the tributes, saying the "entire nation" was proud of Dhankar's breakthrough in Glasgow.



SPORTS

Sooryavanshi stars as India sweep Zimbabwe T20Is 3-0

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

India completed a 3-0 sweep of their three-match Twenty20 International series against Zimbabwe with a 35-run victory in the third and final match at Harare Sports Club on Sunday, capping a dominant tour. Young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was again the difference, anchoring the innings with a fluent 81 off 49 balls as India posted a competitive 192 for 5. The teenager was named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series for his run of form across the fixtures. Zimbabwe never threatened the target in reply, with pacer Mayank Yadav returning three wickets and Yash Thakur claiming two to close out the innings well short. The result followed India's earlier wins, including a 90-run thrashing in the second T20I on July 25, and underlined the depth in India's white-ball bench. The clean sweep also helped India climb back to the summit of the ICC Men's T20I rankings, restoring their position at the top of the format after a testing white-ball tour of England earlier in the month. Attention now turns to India's home season, with the selectors expected to weigh Sooryavanshi's breakout series in their planning for the assignments ahead.

PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

PWD (R&B) DIVISION POONCH

Ref: PWD/R&B/PNC/2026-27/EMG-142

Emergency restoration of flood-damaged Kallar-Androla motorable bridge (approaches & protection) over Munawer River, Mendhar

PWD (R&B) Division Poonch invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of emergency restoration of flood-damaged Kallar-Androla motorable bridge (approaches & p...

Type: Works
Last date: 8 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 4.85 crore
EMD: ₹ 9.70 lakh
Location: Mendhar, Poonch
Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAJOURI

Ref: PWD/R&B/RJI/2026-27/158

Construction of permanent RCC bridge over Ans River at Kot Ranka (replacing temporary Army Bailey bridge) connecting Rajouri-Budhal

PWD (R&B) Division Rajouri invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of construction of permanent RCC bridge over Ans River at Kot Ranka (replacing temporary...

Type: Works
Last date: 16 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 6.20 crore
EMD: ₹ 12.40 lakh
Location: Kot Ranka, Budhal, Rajouri
Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF

PWD (R&B) SUB DIVISION SURANKOTE, POONCH

Ref: PWD/R&B/PNC/2026-27/EMG-149

Emergency restoration of flood-damaged roads, slips, crate walls and choked culverts along Surankote-Mendhar belt

PWD (R&B) Sub Division Surankote, Poonch invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of emergency restoration of flood-damaged roads, slips, crate walls and ch...

Type: Works
Last date: 5 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 2.35 crore
EMD: ₹ 4.70 lakh
Location: Surankote, Poonch
Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub Division Surankote, Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION POONCH

Ref: PHE/PNC/2026-27/WSS-071

Restoration of flood-damaged Water Supply Schemes (WSS Behramgala, Mandi and Loran) including intakes, pipelines and pump houses

Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Poonch invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of restoration of flood-damaged Water Supply Schemes (WSS Behramgala, Mandi and Lo...

Type: Works
Last date: 7 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 1.78 crore
EMD: ₹ 3.56 lakh
Location: Mandi / Loran, Poonch
Contact: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD (JPDCL), PDD

Ref: JPDCL/EM-DIST/2026-27/POI-33

Restoration and reconstruction of flood-damaged 33 KV / 11 KV distribution network and DTs in Rajouri-Poonch

Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (JPDCL), PDD invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of restoration and reconstruction of flood-damaged 33 KV / 11...

Type: Works
Last date: 12 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 3.10 crore
EMD: ₹ 6.20 lakh
Location: Rajouri & Poonch
Contact: Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (JPDCL), PDD · Refer NIT PDF

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION POONCH

Ref: IFC/PNC/2026-27/FP-33

Flood protection and anti-erosion embankment / crate-wall works along Poonch (Betaar) river and Nallah Kalaban

Irrigation & Flood Control Division Poonch invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of flood protection and anti-erosion embankment / crate-wall works along...

Type: Works
Last date: 18 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 2.90 crore
EMD: ₹ 5.80 lakh
Location: Poonch town
Contact: Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

REW / RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, RAJOURI

Ref: REW/RJI/2026-27/FLD-27

Restoration of flood-damaged bridle paths, retaining walls and drainage in Budhal-Kandi belt under RDD

REW / Rural Development Department, Rajouri invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of restoration of flood-damaged bridle paths, retaining walls and drain...

Type: Works
Last date: 4 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 88.50 lakh
EMD: ₹ 1.77 lakh
Location: Budhal, Rajouri
Contact: Executive Engineer, REW / Rural Development Department, Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF

PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU

Ref: PWD/R&B/JMU/2026-27/241

Periodic renewal / macadamisation and pothole repair of various roads under R&B, Jammu Division

PWD (R&B) Division Jammu invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of periodic renewal / macadamisation and pothole repair of various roads under R&B, Jammu...

Type: Works
Last date: 10 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 1.95 crore
EMD: ₹ 3.90 lakh
Location: Jammu
Contact: Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) KASHMIR

Ref: No/PHEQ/CC/2273-90 (E-NIT No. 11 of 2026-27)

Repair of horizontal submersible pump sets and extension of supply mains to newly developed colonies (E-NIT 11 of 2026-27)

Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of repair of horizontal submersible pump sets and extension of supply mains to newly devel...

Type: Works
Last date: 1 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 47.50 lakh
EMD: ₹ 95,000
Location: Anantnag / Srinagar
Contact: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir · Refer NIT PDF

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (GMC JAMMU)

Ref: GMC/JMU/PROC/2026-27/DRG-88

Supply of drugs, surgical disposables and laboratory reagents for GMC and associated hospitals

Health & Medical Education Department (GMC Jammu) invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for supply supply of drugs, surgical disposables and laboratory reagents for GM...

Type: Supply
Last date: 11 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 3.75 crore
EMD: ₹ 7.50 lakh
Location: Jammu
Contact: Managing Director / Director, Health & Medical Education Department (GMC Jammu) · jktenders.gov.in

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Ref: SS/PNC-RJI/2026-27/CW-52

Construction and upgradation of school buildings and additional classrooms under Samagra Shiksha

Samagra Shiksha, School Education Department invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for execution of construction and upgradation of school buildings and additional cla...

Type: Works
Last date: 13 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 1.20 crore
EMD: ₹ 2.40 lakh
Location: Poonch / Rajouri
Contact: Executive Engineer, Samagra Shiksha, School Education Department · Refer NIT PDF

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Ref: JKSSB Advt. Notification No. 07 of 2026 dated 08-07-2026

Recruitment to 72 Divisional Cadre posts under PM Package for Kashmiri Migrants (Advt. Notification No. 07 of 2026)

J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to 72 divisional cadre posts under pm package for kashmiri migrants (advt. notification no. 07 of 2026). Applicant...

Type: Recruitment
Last date: 8 Sep 2026
Est. cost: N/A
Location: Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Ref: JKSSB Advt. Notification No. 06 of 2026 dated 06-07-2026

Recruitment of Draftsman (Civil) posts for Public Works (R&B) Department (Advt. Notification No. 06 of 2026)

J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment of draftsman (civil) posts for public works (r&b) department (advt. notification no. 06 of 2026). Applicants must...

Type: Recruitment
Last date: 5 Aug 2026
Est. cost: N/A
Location: Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
Contact: Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI UNIVERSITY (SMVDU)

Ref: SMVDU/PUR/2026-27/34

Supply and installation of laboratory and computing equipment for engineering schools, SMVDU Katra

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) invites e-tenders on percentage/item-rate basis from eligible registered contractors/firms for supply supply and installation of laboratory and computing equipment for engineerin...

Type: Supply
Last date: 12 Aug 2026
Est. cost: ₹ 65.00 lakh
EMD: ₹ 1.30 lakh
Location: Katra, Reasi
Contact: Executive Engineer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) · Refer NIT PDF

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

Ref: UOJ/Estt/2026/AP-19

Advertisement for contractual Assistant Professors and laboratory staff (various departments)

University of Jammu invites online applications from eligible candidates for advertisement for contractual assistant professors and laboratory staff (various departments). Applicants must meet the qualifications, eligibi...

Type: Recruitment
Last date: 18 Aug 2026
Est. cost: N/A
Location: Jammu
Contact: Registrar, University of Jammu · Refer advertisement

REGIONAL

Statehood push hardens into NC-BJP standoff as Centre stays noncommittal

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

The demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood gathered fresh momentum this week, hardening into a direct confrontation between the ruling National Conference and the BJP even as the Centre stuck to a noncommittal line.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who led a high-profile NC protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on July 20-21 timed to the opening of Parliament's Monsoon Session, insisted the party's message was unambiguous: "First statehood, then the restoration of special status." He argued that Article 370 or 371 "hold no meaning" without statehood, because "there is no sharing of powers between the Centre and a Union Territory."Abdullah, joined in Delhi by 90-year-old NC president Farooq Abdullah, described the protest as "just the beginning" of a wider campaign and said the leadership would soon finalise its next course of action. The resolution on special status passed by the Assembly in its first session, he said, "is still alive" but can be meaningfully pursued only once statehood is restored.The push drew a sharp counter from the BJP, which announced its own agitations in Jammu and accused the Abdullah government of invoking the statehood plank to "divert attention" from governance failures. Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh said the campaign was an attempt to "cover up unfulfilled promises," while the party maintained that statehood would be restored "when the right time comes."Union Minister G Kishan Reddy reiterated that the Centre would respond "at an appropriate time," even as he ruled out the return of Article 370.

NC activists continued rallies across Jammu through the week, pressing the government to honour assurances made in Parliament and before the Supreme Court more than two years ago.

SPORTS

Over 200 shooters take aim as J&K UT championship gets under way in Jammu

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

More than 200 shooters from across Jammu and Kashmir took aim at the 15th J&K UT Shooting Championship 2026, a five-day competition that ran from July 23 to 27 at ranges in and around Jammu.Organised by the J&K Rifle Association under the National Rifle Association of India, in collaboration with the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, the championship was staged across three venues — the DYSS Shooting Range at Gandhi Nagar, the Mission Olympic Shooting Academy in Jammu and the NCC Shooting Range at Nagrota.JKRA president Surinder Singh Sodhi inaugurated the meet, which offered rifle and pistol events across age categories. Among the opening-day winners, Dharya Kotwal of the Mission Olympic Shooting Academy topped the girls' rifle section and Laksh Chetan Wazir the boys' rifle, while Rahil Shan (366) and Shweta Mehra (363) led the boys' and girls' pistol events respectively.Association officials said the championship serves as a key selection platform for shooters from the Union Territory ahead of national-level competition.

REGIONAL

Rajnath in Srinagar to review security ahead of Kargil Vijay Diwas

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Srinagar on Saturday on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, ahead of the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas commemoration at Drass.Singh was received at Srinagar International Airport by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, along with senior civil and Army officials. Tight security was in place across the city for the visit.The Defence Minister was scheduled to fly to Drass by helicopter for the war memorial ceremony, but the sortie was called off because of poor flying weather in the mountains. He travelled to the Kargil sector by road instead, as the two-day programme honouring the soldiers of the 1999 war got under way.Officials said Singh would also review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir with top Army commanders during the visit, taking stock of border preparedness and counter-terrorist operations.

The review came at the close of a difficult monsoon month in which security forces were also drawn into flood-rescue duties across the Union Territory.

NATIONAL

Pradhan quits as education minister as student revolt over NEET leak forces Centre's hand

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned on Saturday, submitting his resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and handing a decisive victory to the nationwide student agitation that had convulsed the country over an alleged leak in the NEET-UG medical entrance examination.Pradhan announced the decision after weeks of demonstrations, sit-ins and hunger strikes led by the youth-based Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and left-leaning student groups, who had made his removal their central demand. "From day one, I took full responsibility for this situation and never shied away from it," he wrote, adding that he was stepping aside "to ensure that anti-national forces do not exploit this situation" and that "national unity remains intact."The protests, which began at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 6, swelled into a mass movement after more than a dozen students died by suicide in the wake of the paper-leak scandal and the cancellation of the examination. Anger deepened when Delhi police lathi-charged demonstrators on July 22 and forcibly removed education reformer Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on an indefinite hunger strike at the protest site.Wangchuk ended his 26-day fast on July 24 after the government offered written assurances on withdrawing cases, compensating bereaved families and discussing accountability in Parliament. A day later, Pradhan quit.Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi welcomed the resignation, calling it "a huge step towards rebuilding our education system" and congratulating students who "stood firmly in defence of democracy." He demanded that Modi apologise and that those responsible for the police action be held accountable.

The BJP praised its minister, with party president Nitin Nabin saying the move "reflects the highest standards of integrity and selfless service in public life."The Prime

REGIONAL

LG orders faster restoration as rain havoc batters J&K

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 28 JUL, 2026

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the situation arising from heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir, directing all departments to speed up rescue, relief and restoration work in the affected areas.At a high-level meeting, the Lieutenant Governor asked field agencies to intensify rescue efforts and keep men, machinery and emergency equipment stationed at vulnerable points so that response times are cut. He directed officials to issue timely weather advisories and take special care of people living in landslide-prone and low-lying zones.Officials told the meeting that more than 400 roads blocked by landslides and shooting stones in the Jammu division had been restored, and that clearance operations were continuing on the remaining stretches. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway, shut for three days by debris and sliding boulders, was reopened to one-way traffic after round-the-clock work by the Border Roads Organisation and the National Highways Authority.The Lieutenant Governor directed the district administration and health authorities to ensure prompt medical care for those injured in rain-related incidents.

Two persons were killed in a shooting-stone incident at Ramban, among the worst-hit stretches of the highway corridor. Poonch, Rajouri and Doda were reported as the districts that bore the heaviest damage to homes, roads and farmland.The Public Works, Jal Shakti and Power departments were asked to restore damaged drinking-water schemes, culverts and electricity lines on priority, while the State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response Force, police and the Army were told to stay on alert for fresh rescue calls.Sinha said the administration would assess the losses suffered by families and ensure that relief reached the needy without delay. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier spoken to the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, assuring central assistance for the relief and restoration effort.