

PM to youth: Shortcut will cut you short

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged young people to read autobiographies of people they admire, saying that in the "era of reels", social media influencers could take them down certain paths, but a "shortcut will cut you short".

Speaking at the launch of former president Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles", Modi said Kovind's life showed how determination could help a person overcome adversity and rise to the highest constitutional office.

Highlighting Kovind's continuing public engagement, Modi said the former president had not rested after demitting office and was working on the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, which could "open a new chapter in Indian democracy". Kovind's efforts on the issue were part of his continued contribution to ► P11

Multi-covered security in place for I-Day celebrations Joint anti-fidayeen security drill conducted at Katra base camp

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: A joint anti-fidayeen security mock drill was conducted at the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine in Katra on Wednesday to assess the preparedness and coordination of security and emergency response agencies ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, officials said.

The exercise was supervised by the SP and jointly conducted by Reasi district police with the Special Operations Group, CRPF and the Army medium regiment, with



participation from health services and fire and emergency services, they said.

The drill simulated a ter-

ror-related security contingency at the venue and assessed the response of various agencies, including immedi-

All nuclear plants under periodic security assessments: Dr Jitendra ‘IN-SPACE granted 113 authorisations to 52 NGEs’



NEW DELHI: Periodic security assessments are conducted both internally and by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) at all nuclear power plant sites, including Kudankulam, Union Minister

Manickam Tagore B's query in the Lok Sabha on vulnerability assessments and third-party security audits of nuclear plants.

The minister stressed that continuous monitoring and surveillance mechanisms were in place to detect and respond to cyber threats to these plants.

"Appropriate preventive and protective measures, including access controls, regular security audits, vulnerability assessments, incident response mechanisms and capacity-building programmes are implemented," Singh added. The development has come within a month ► P11

Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

External government agencies also carry out assessments of nuclear power plants, the minister said in a written reply to Congress MP

CM sanctions Rs 5.15 crore historic project

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved a ₹5.15 crore project for the comprehensive development of the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib at Bakhta in Kathua district.

The project envisages the construction of a new Langar Hall and Prayer Hall, besides provision of modern civic amenities for devotees visiting the revered shrine.

The initiative marks another significant step towards strengthening pilgrimage infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring the preservation of the region's sacred cultural ► P11

Shah dares Oppn to let Parl function, says ready for discussion on all issues

■ J-K BJP briefs
HM on govern-
ance, security,
public concerns

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday dared the opposition to submit a formal letter to the Lok Sabha speaker for a debate on students' protests and all related issues, and said he will attend the entire proceedings to address all questions if the discussion begins today.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, he said it was now up to the opposition whether they want to take part in the debate or to create turmoil in Parliament.

"Even today, I say that they should submit a letter to the Speaker by 2 pm. We are ready for all kinds of discussions from 3 pm today until 3



pm tomorrow," Shah said, asserting that the government has nothing to hide.

The home minister's remarks came just a day before the Monsoon Session comes to an end after prolonged disruptions of the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament. The protests and sloganeering by the opposition initially started over the NEET paper leak and alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

FCRA sent to Joint Parl Committee

NEW DELHI: Amid a noisy stand-off between treasury and opposition benches, Lok Sabha on Wednesday referred the controversial FCRA amendment bill to a joint parliamentary ► P11

The opposition later pressed for a discussion on the police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister, and their statements.

Asked about the opposition charges that he was running away from the debate, the home minister took strong exception to the claim and said words like ► P11

Tiranga rallies organised across Valley Tricolour flying high as India's living conscience, pride: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha participated in the Tiranga Yatra on , leading a momentous celebration of national pride in Srinagar. Following the Yatra, he addressed the citizens, reaffirming the immortal spirit of India's unity and the indomitable courage of its people. The event marked the confluence of two monumental celebrations, the mass movement of Har Ghar Tiranga and the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Tiranga is the living embodiment of India's consciousness and pride. He emphasized that the Tiranga Yatra in the Kashmir Valley sends a clear message that India must never stop and always move forward.

"In 2022, when the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was



launched under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', its purpose was to rekindle in every Indian's heart a sense of closeness, respect, and emotional connection toward the tricolour. When the Tiranga flutters simultaneously on millions of homes, 140 crore Indians' hearts beat as one in a single sentiment, a single faith, a single resolve. ► P11

LG calls for LA session from Sep 21

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday summoned the legislative assembly for its Autumn Session from September 21. Invoking powers conferred under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Sinha summoned the legislative assembly to meet for the Autumn Session at 10 am on September 21, officials said. The assembly last met for its Budget Session in February-March this year. An official of the legislative assembly said the duration of the session has not been decided yet.

SIA raids 9 locations in 1990 double murder case

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted raids at multiple locations across the Union Territory in connection with the double murder of a Kashmiri Pandit writer and his son in 1990, officials said.

The SIA searched nine locations, including in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and Bagh-e-Bahu area of Jammu.

The raids were part of an SIA investigation into the abduction and murder of Kashmiri Pandit writer and social worker Sarwanand Koul ► P11

Holy ‘mace’ of Lord Shiva taken to Shankaracharya temple for prayers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Chhari Mubarak, the holy mace of Lord Shiva, was taken to the Shankaracharya temple in Dalgate area of the city on Wednesday for prayers on the occasion of 'Haryali Amavasya', an age old tradition of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

"In connection with Swami Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri ji was taken to historic Shankaracharya Temple, Srinagar located at Gopadri Hills today for prayers on the occasion of 'Haryali-Amavasya' (Shravan Amavasya) as per the age-old customs," a statement issued by Dashnami Akhara, the permanent abode of the holy mace, said.

"Collective prayers were



also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and the country at whole," the statement read.

Talking to reporters, Mahant Giri said historians are of the opinion that the temple at the top was originally built by King Sandiman.

"This temple was, earlier, known as Jyeshtheshwara or Jyoteshwara temple. But after Adi Guru Shankracharya

Ji visited this temple, it is, now, popularly known as Shri Shankracharya Temple," he said.

The Chhari-Mubarak shall be taken to 'Sharika-Bhawani' Temple at Hari Parbat fort here to pay obeisance to the goddess on Thursday, August 13, he added.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra was stopped on ► P11

NEET Paper Leak: Court takes cognisance of CBI chargesheet

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday took cognisance of the CBI's charge sheet in the NEET paper leak case and is likely to begin hearing the arguments on the charges from August 13.

The CBI recently submitted its final report before the designated fast-track court dealing with "criminal cases arising from paper leaks as well as the use of other unfair means in public examinations".

Special Judge Ajay Gupta took cognisance of the agency's final report against 13 accused.

The court is likely to begin hearing the arguments on charges from Thursday. During the proceedings,

the agency informed the court that some witnesses whose names are being published in the media could even be minors, and portions of the charge sheet are continuously being published in newspapers.

The court expressed displeasure over the media publishing the names of witnesses in the case.

It said, "This is very shocking... Whatever has not yet been stated in court and is currently part of the charge sheet... All of that being made public in the media is extremely shocking.

It said that a responsible media should refrain from doing such things.

Three National Testing Agency (NTA) ► P11

Over 18L grievances disposed of

NEW DELHI: More than 18.33 lakh public grievances were received against central government departments during 2025-26, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Of the total of 18,33,972 such grievances against central government ministries/ departments, 18,12,923 were disposed of, Union Minister of State for Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh said in a written reply. A total of ► P11

Parliament passes Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill to rename Kerala as Keralam, with the Rajya Sabha clearing the legislation with a voice vote.

The Lok Sabha passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in 2024, urging the Centre to bring a law to change the name of the state to Keralam.

"The bill provides that the State of Kerala will be known as the State of Keralam, and hence there is a proposal to rename the State of Kerala to Keralam," he said.

The Kerala government had forwarded a resolution passed by the state assembly regarding the name change to the Centre in June 2024.

Subsequently, the President of India referred a Bill to the state legislature ► P11



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**Recruitment of Football Players for
J & K Bank Football Team (Selection Trails)**

In continuation to Notification bearing No.: JKB/HR/Rectt/2026-228 Dated: 07.05.2026 whereby applications were invited from eligible applicants for the post of Football Players for J & K Bank Football Team, it is being informed that the selection trials of eligible applicants has been scheduled for 17.08.2026 (Monday) and 18.08.2026 (Tuesday) at Synthetic Turf Rugby Polo Ground, 190001.

Reporting Time of the applicants is 9:00 AM. Further, interview of the shortlisted applicants shall be held on 19.08.2026 (Wednesday) at J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road, Srinagar - 190001.

Note: No TA/DA shall be made available to the applicants.

No.: JKB/HR/Rectt/2026-380
Dated:-12.08.2026
Sd/-
General Manager-HR

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