



PM Modi's Claim Of Special Relationship With Trump Stands Totally Exposed: Cong

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Kulgam operation enters 8th day

The Kulgam operation, in which two terrorists were killed by security forces on August 2, entered eighth day today.

According to officials, security forces were using all means, including drones, to track down the holed-up terrorists but were yet to find any trace of theirs.

The encounter began on August 1 after forces launched a cordon and search operation in Akhal woods of Kulgam, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of ter

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ACB arrests junior asstt in graft case

ACB today trapped and arrested a junior assistant in the office of ACR, Rajouri, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000.

The anti-graft body received a complaint, alleging that complainant had to register three marlas of land in his name in the office of ACR, Rajouri, for which he had submitted

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Drug peddler's bank account attached

Police today attached the bank account of an alleged drug peddler, besides seizing his motorcycle, at Udhampur in Jammu region.

"The properties of drug peddler Vikrant Sharma of Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur, have been attached under section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act," officials said. A Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycle, identified as illegally acquired property,

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White Knight Corps GOC reviews security situation along LoC

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 08

Lt Gen P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of White Knight Corps, today visited the forward areas of Sunderbani sub-sector of Jammu to assess the current security situation and review the operational preparedness of troops along the Line of Control. He was briefed by local commanders on ground deployments, terrain challenges, and readiness

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CBSE chief gets 2-year extension



NEW DELHI, AUG 08: Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has been given a two-year extension as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), according to an official order.

Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, was appointed to the post on March 13 last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension in central deputation

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Amid escalating tensions with US, PM Modi dials President Putin

Reaffirms commitment to deepening ties

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: Amid escalating tensions with the US, after President Donald Trump's imposition of additional tariffs on India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over phone and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

This makes clear India's stand that it won't give in to the US tariff pressure tactics.

"Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin," Modi posted on X after the phone call.

Putin briefed Modi on his country's ongoing conflict with Ukraine, with the prime minister reiterating India's consistent position for the peaceful resolution of the issue.

"I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later this year," he added.

Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order, slapping an addi-



tional 25 per cent levy on India for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total duties to 50 per cent -- among the highest imposed by the US on any country in the world.

The additional 25 per cent duty will come into effect on August 27.

Meanwhile, Modi on Thursday received a phone call from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose country has also been at the receiving end of Trump's tariffs, and the two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, technology, energy, defence, agriculture, health, and people-to-people ties.

Russia has expressed solidarity with India amid pressure from Trump with 50% tariffs over its continued oil purchases.

"Sovereign countries have the right to choose their own trading partners," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had said, criticising calls to "force countries to sever trading relations" with Russia as "illegitimate".

Moreover, India has defended its Russian oil purchases, calling it a move necessitated by "global market conditions".

Putin had on Thursday received India's National Security Advisor Ajit Kumar Doval at the Kremlin.

Prime Minister Modi had visited Russia last year and he and President Vladimir Putin highly appreciated the special nature of this time-tested relationship, which is based on trust, mutual understanding and strategic convergence.

In his first comments after US President Donald Trump imposed a 50 pc tariff on Indian goods for buying crude oil from Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had yesterday vowed to never compromise on the interests of farmers & dairy sector and declared that he was prepared to bear a significant personal cost, if necessary.

The India-US trade deal has been struck over the US demand for greater access to India's agricultural and dairy market. It wants reduced

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Raksha Bandhan strengthens determination to protect women's rights: Prez



NEW DELHI, AUG 08: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday greeted citizens on the eve of Raksha Bandhan and said that this festival strengthens our determination to protect the rights of women and respect them.

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Sitharaman withdraws Income Tax Bill



NEW DELHI, AUG 08: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday withdrew the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, and the government will come out with an updated version of the legislation after incorporating changes suggested by the Select Committee.

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3 killed in road accidents

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 08

Three persons, including a motorcyclist and his pillion rider, were today killed in road accidents in Kathua & Poonch districts of Jammu.

Officials said a motorcyclist and his pillion rider lost their lives after their two-wheeler collided with a load carrier near Sandhar village on Bani-Basohli road in the morning.

Officials said the two-wheeler rammed into the load carrier under mysterious circumstances, resulting in the instant death of

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The Himalayan Mail wishes all its readers a Happy Raksha Bandhan. Editor-in-Chief

LG Kavinder calls for boosting winter tourism in Ladakh

LEH, AUG 08: As part of his efforts to bring Ladakh on the tourism map of the world, LG Kavinder Gupta today called for boosting winter tourism in the UT and safeguarding the monasteries, besides upgrading the road network.

He also laid stress on promoting homestays to boost rural tourism, digitising scriptures and ensuring year-round movement through strategic road development.

"Ladakh receives substantial numbers of tourists in summer months, but it is equally important to promote winter tourism to boost the footfall of tourists, particularly foreigners, as the majority of people in Ladakh are engaged in the tourism industry," Gupta said during his introductory-cum-review meeting of the department of tourism & culture at the LG secretariat

He also emphasised the need for protecting ancient monasteries, possessing rich artefacts by installing CCTVs and digitise cen-



turies-old scriptures. "Also ensure that the script used in light and sound shows is vetted by history professors to provide factual information to tourists," he said.

During the day-long meetings, he also reviewed the functioning of Housing and Urban Development, Public Works Department (PWD), Mechanical Engineering, General Administration Department (GAD) and Inspector General of Registration.

In the morning session, administrative secretary Sanjit Rodrigues highlighted key projects, functions and schemes of the Housing and Urban Development Department, including the upcoming GIS-

based Master Plan for Leh/Kargil, proposal to upgrade the Municipal Committee to Municipal Council in Ladakh.

He informed that various central government schemes implemented by the department, such as PM-SVANidhi, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0, AMRUT 2.0, PMAY Urban 2.0 and benefits were being extended to beneficiaries under these schemes.

Highlighting the decline in footfall of tourists over the last two years, the administrative secretary

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Need to revise creamy layer income ceiling for OBCs: Par panel

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: A parliamentary committee looking into the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has said it was the "need of the hour" to revise the creamy layer income ceiling, saying the limit is excluding a large section of eligible OBC families from reservation benefits and government welfare schemes.

In its eighth report presented to Parliament today, the panel noted that the last revision of the income threshold from Rs 6.5 lakh to Rs 8 lakh per annum was carried out in 2017.

The Department of Per-

sonnel and Training (DoPT) rules require the ceiling to be reviewed every three years or sooner, if needed.

"The present threshold is low, covering only a small segment of OBCs," the panel, chaired by BJP MP Ganesh Singh, said, adding inflation and rising incomes in even lower income groups had made an upward revision the "need of the hour".

"The Committee is aware of the fact that the income limit for determining creamy layer for OBCs should be reviewed every three years or even before the stipulated period. However, the same has not been

revised since 2017," it said.

"The Committee, therefore, in no uncertain words, reiterate their recommendation for reviewing and accordingly revising the present creamy layer threshold limit to cover more and more persons from the OBCs as this would eventually help in raising their socio-economic condition to a satisfactory level," the panel said.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, however, told the committee that "there is no proposal under consideration" to revise the creamy layer limit.

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Israel's security cabinet approves plan to take control of Gaza

JERUSALEM, AUG 08: Israel's security cabinet has approved a plan by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take control of Gaza City as part of a five-point plan to "disarm" Hamas and end the war in the enclave.

The decision to take control of Gaza city came amid massive anti-government protests across Israel demanding an immediate end to the war in Gaza and ensuring immediate return of the hostages held captive by Hamas for the last 22 months.

"A decisive majority of Security Cabinet ministers believed that the alternative plan that had been submitted to the Security Cabinet would neither achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages," Netanyahu's office said.

It is not immediately clear what the alternative plan was.

The plan cleared by the Security Cabinet featured five principles.

These are: disarming of Hamas, return of all the hostages, the demilitarisa-

tion of Gaza, Israeli security control in Gaza and establishment of a civil administration that is neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority.

Netanyahu's office said the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) will prepare for taking control of Gaza City while distributing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population outside the combat zones.

Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas attacked the country on October 7, 2023 killing about

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