

Modi meets Muizzu in reset of ties after 'India Out' row

New Delhi, however, regained its influence as it helped to prevent the \$7.5-billion Maldives economy from defaulting on its debt.

Muizzu visited India last October, and has visited China too - the two countries are Male's largest lenders - to secure financial support.

The turnaround in the bilateral ties assumes significance as Muizzu, known to be close to China, came to power in the island nation in November 2023 on the back of an "India Out" campaign.

His policies in the first few months of his presidency resulted in severe strain in the ties. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, India replaced the personnel with civilians.

The Indian military personnel were deployed to the Maldives to maintain and operate two helicopters and an aircraft, which were used for humanitarian and rescue operations.

It is widely believed that New Delhi's sustained efforts, including its assistance to the island nation to deal with its economic woes, helped bring the relations back on track.

Before Modi left for his trip, Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri said steady diplomacy had helped to rebuild India-Maldives ties: "There will always be events that will impact or try to intrude on the relationship. But I think this is testimony to the kind of attention that has been paid to the relationship, and including attention at the highest levels."

Former Maldives foreign minister Abdulla Shahid said Modi's visit indicated that Muizzu had "decided to step back and correct the narrative".

"We've continued to work at it, and I think the result is there for you to see," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Tuesday when asked about the turnaround in the ties.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties, including in areas of defence and security, witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous governments in Male.

Motion to remove Justice Varma to begin in LS: Rijiju

signed by 152 MPs submitted to Birla on July 21 was now a "property of the House", and that consultation had begun for the formation of a three-member committee, which will include either the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge, a high court chief justice and a distinguished jurist.

A similar notice signed by 63 opposition MPs was submitted to then Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on the same day.

As part of the process, the Chair was expected to write to the CJI, seeking his recommendation of the two judges, while the choice of the distinguished jurist was his prerogative.

Since the notices were submitted, Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha J P Nadda, Speaker Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who is now in charge after Dhankhar's resignation, have been part of deliberations over the future course of action.

Dhankhar had cited the Judges Act in the Rajya Sabha on Monday to assert that when notices of a motion are submitted on the same day in both the Houses of Parliament, a committee to examine the charges levelled against the judge will be constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

In a dramatic turn of events, he resigned later in the evening to "prioritise health care" amid clear indications that the government was miffed with him for receiving the opposition-sponsored notice and mentioning it in the House when a bipartisan notice was already moved in the Lok Sabha.

The three-member committee, the Act says, will probe "into the grounds on which the removal of a judge is prayed for".

DGMO discusses J&K situation with LG

ality scenario with LG Manoj Sinha.

According to an official handout, the DGMO called on the LG and had a meeting with him.

In the meeting, he discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir with Sinha, the handout said.

ACB arrests patwari for accepting Rs 40,000 bribe

tral land after the death of his father. In this regard, he applied for registration of virasati intiqal but patwari Ashok Kumar demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 but after negotiation, he agreed on Rs 40,000, officials said.

Since the complainant didn't want to pay bribe, he approached ACB for taking legal action against the patwari. On receipt of complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the patwari. Accordingly, a case under section 7 of PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) against accused was registered at ACB police station, Doda, the officials added.

During investigation, a trap team headed by a senior officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and the patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting of the bribe of Rs 40,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses, officials said.

The patwari was arrested on spot by the ACB team after following the due procedure of law. The bribe money was also recovered in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.

Further investigation was going on.

2 cops suspended over youth's 'killing'

killed youth.

As per an order issued by SSP, Jammu, Joginder Singh, the suspended cops are: HC Baljinder Singh and Selection Grade cop Pawan Singh.

"They shall remain posted in DPL, Jammu, and will deposit uniform articles in DPL store. DSP headquarters, is directed to hold departmental inquiry against them," says the order.

Ladakh LG vows to work for comprehensive development of UT

fer Akhhoon, in the presence of executive councillors, LAHDC Kargil - Kacho Mohammad Feroz and Zakir Hus-

sain, Kargil deputy commissioner Rakesh Kumar, SSP Shree Ram R and other senior district officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta expressed his happiness for getting chance to visit Kargil district for the first time and assured that he would take immediate actions to help those impacted by the recent cloudburst in the area.

"A survey team has been constituted, and compensation assessments would be conducted to provide timely support to the affected families," he said.

He emphasised the need for a cohesive approach involving participation of stakeholders such as the LAHDC, district administration and civil society for Ladakh's holistic development. He underlined their collective effort to bolster the region's development, with a key focus on tourism promotion and creating livelihood opportunities for youth.

Gupta stated that the public demand for better infrastructure and facilities, such as the need for upgradation of roads, medical centres, educational facilities, lift-irrigation schemes and other issues, would be thoroughly examined, and the UT administration would explore all avenues to resolve the issues.

Earlier, villagers, monks, nuns and civil society representatives received him with traditional khataks, followed by traditional folk songs and cultural performances.

During his interaction with people at Shargole, the LG pledged the conversion of Primary Health Centre (PHC) into a Community Health Centre (CHC) and assured the opening of a public administration complex to reinforce local governance infrastructure.

At Bodh Kharbu's Photang, he committed to facilitating the construction of a guest house to support visitors and dignitaries.

Gupta also sought blessings at the 8th century Maitreya Buddha statue at Mulbekh. Telling him about the heritage significance of the Buddha statue, the villagers sought his intervention for its conservation and development of the monastery premises.

The LG assured to look into the matter.

Dr Jaffer Akhhoon expressed optimism that both Leh and Kargil districts would witness equitable and sustained advancement under the LG Gupta's dynamic leadership.

He exuded confidence that the HLG's tenure would mark the beginning of a new chapter of inclusive growth and collaborative development in Ladakh.

J&K Bank reports 17 pc YoY rise in Q1 profit to Rs 484.84 cr

(April-June 2025), posting a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹484.84 crore compared to ₹415.49 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

The Q1 results were approved during the Board of Directors meeting held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters in Srinagar.

Key Financial Highlights:

Net Interest Income (NII): ₹1,465.43 crore, up 7% YoY

Other Income: ₹250.30 crore, a rise of 29% YoY

Operating Profit: ₹672.84 crore, an increase of 13% YoY

Return on Assets (RoA): Improved to 1.17% from 1.08%

Net Interest Margin (NIM): Stood at 3.72%

Cost to Income Ratio: Improved to 60.78%

Commenting on the performance, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee noted, "Despite the adverse impact of the Pahalgam terror attack on business activity and credit offtake, we

Shri Amarnathji Yatra

Fresh batch of 2,896 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JULY 25

A batch of 2,896 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here today for the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

Escorted by CRPF and police personnel, the 23rd batch of 2,896 pilgrims, including 2,505 men and 314 women, left the Jammu base camp here in 117 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir between 3:30 am and 4:18 am, officials said.

The first convoy, carrying 790 pilgrims in 42 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, and the second convoy of 2,106 pilgrims in 75 vehicles left for the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, officials said.

With this, a total of 1,36,774 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu

base camp for the valley since July 2, when LG Manoj Sinha had flagged off the first batch.

The number of pilgrims undertaking the yatra has seen a dip over the past few days.

Over 3.40 lakh pilgrims have visited the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva, which houses a naturally formed ice-Shivalingam, since the pilgrimage began on July 3.

According to the officials, on-the-spot registration for the pilgrimage has been closed due to the drop in footfall of pilgrims. The registration will now be done at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

Officials said more than 4 lakh people have registered online for the pilgrimage so far. Last year, more than 5.10 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine.

The 38-day pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

The Amarnath Yatra was suspended on July 17 from Jammu as well as from the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal due to heavy rains in the valley.

Thirty-four accommodation centres have been set up across Jammu, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being issued to the pilgrims. Twelve counters have been set up for on-the-spot registration.

Arrangements have been made to provide boarding and lodging facilities for over 50,000 people at various lodgement centres across Jammu region, from Lakanpur to Banihal, according to officials.

"Over 100 lodgement centres have been set up for the purpose," the officials added.

A total of 180 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), 30 more from the previous year, have been deployed for the security of pilgrims.

Terror funding case

HC seeks NIA response on Er Rashid's interim bail plea

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: The Delhi High Court on Friday sought a response from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on a plea by jailed Lok Sabha MP Er Rashid seeking interim bail to attend the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament.

Rashid, in jail in a 2017 terror funding case, has also challenged a trial court order asking him to bear travel expenses of Rs 1.44 lakh per day for attending Parliament in custody from July 24 to August 4.

A bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Shalinder Kaur issued notice to the NIA on the plea and listed the matter for further hearing on July 29.

The court is also scheduled to hear on July 29 Rashid's regular bail plea in the case.

The Baramulla MP has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case.

During the brief hearing, Rashid's counsel submitted that the MP has already been saddled with Rs 17 lakh cost to represent the public at large in Parliament.

He said Rashid was previously allowed to attend Parliament and that he was losing every day as he was unable to attend the session due to the huge costs.

Rashid sought interim

bail or custody parole with travel expenses to carry out his duty as a parliamentarian.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit.

On July 22, the trial court granted custody parole to Rashid to attend the Monsoon session from July 24 to August 4, subject to payment of travel expenses.

Rashid, who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu tourism-Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

delivered a healthy bottom line growth of around 17%. The decline in NIM reflects repo rate cuts and broader macro-economic conditions."

He added that profitability was impacted by a one-time impairment provision of ₹87 crore related to the amalgamation of Ellaquai Dehati Bank with J&K Grameen Bank. "Excluding this, our YoY profit growth would have exceeded 30%. Our core strength and capital buffers remain robust," he stated.

Business Growth:

Deposits: ₹1,48,542 crore, up 12% YoY

Net Advances: ₹1,01,230 crore, up 6.06% YoY

CASA Ratio: 45.71%

The Bank is aggressively expanding operations beyond J&K, with a focus on branch expansion, builder tie-ups, and partnerships with Direct Selling Agents (DSAs). Chatterjee emphasized continued focus on lending to agriculture, industry, and youth entrepreneurship, alongside investments in digital infrastructure.

Asset Quality:

Gross NPA: Reduced to 3.50% from 3.91%

Net NPA: 0.82%

NPA Coverage Ratio: Above 90%

The CEO reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to bringing GNPA down to around 3% by year-end through prudent lending, recoveries, and digital monitoring tools.

Capital Adequacy:

CAR: 15.98%

"With a strong capital adequacy position, we are well-placed to raise further capital and pursue our growth strategies across business segments," Chatterjee concluded.

Landmine explodes; Agniveer

loses life, JCO among 2 injured

patrolling along the LoC in general area of Krishna Ghati when a powerful landmine blast took place.

In the incident, which occurred after one of the members of the patrol party inadvertently stepped on a landmine, a jawan was said to have lost his life on the spot while two others, including a JCO, sustained injuries, the officials added.

The martyred jawan was identified as Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment. Arrangements were being made to send his body home, officials said.

"The injured, one of whom is a JCO, were shifted to a military hospital," officials said, adding that their condition was stated to be stable.

"GOC of White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice while on an area domination patrol in the general area of Krishna Ghati brigade, following a mine blast," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

"We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said.

Meanwhile, Sinha paid tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar.

"I pay my heartfelt tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The nation stands firmly with them in this hour of grief," he said.

Landmines have been laid along the LoC with Pakistan to prevent infiltration by the terrorists based in PoJK.

Magisterial Inquiry Ordered into incident

at Surey Chak, Phallian Mandal

JAMMU, JULY 25: The District Magistrate Jammu has ordered a Magisterial Inquiry into the incident that occurred on 24th July 2025 at Surey Chak, Phallian Mandal.

Following the incident, an FIR has been registered at Police Station Satwari under Sections 109(I), 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3/27 of the Arms Act.

Taking serious note of the incident, as reported by Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, the District Magistrate has initiated a Magisterial Inquiry to ensure a fair and impartial examination of the facts and circumstances leading to the incident. The inquiry will be conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jammu South.

The Inquiry Officer has been directed to complete the investigation within two weeks from the date of the order and submit a detailed report to the District Magistrate for further necessary action.

Cow stolen, police informed

JAMMU, JULY 25: A cow was last night stolen by unknown persons from a farm in village Chak Raipur Jagir near here.

The theft became known this morning when farm owner Pawan Kumar Sharma visited the site as usual. After he found the cow missing, he lodged a complaint in this regard with Pounichak police post.

Police took cognizance of the complaint and were making efforts to trace the cow.

65.2 lakh voters to be removed from electoral rolls in Bihar

PATNA, JULY 25: The first phase of the Bihar Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise has been completed, and the names of 65.2 lakh voters are likely to be excluded.

Data released by the Election Commission on Friday, the last day for submitting enumeration forms, shows that of the 65.2 lakh voters, of which 22 lakh are dead, 35 lakh have permanently shifted outside Bihar, 7 lakh are enrolled as voters in more than one place and 1.2 lakh are yet to submit their forms.

The Election Commission (EC) said 99.8 pc of Bihar's electors have been covered under the SIR exercise, which began in the state on June 24. Out of 7.9 crore electors, enumeration forms of 7.23 crore electors have been received and digitised, and their names will be included in the Draft Electoral Roll scheduled to be published on August 1.

The EC said that remuneration forms of remaining 1.2 lakh electors are yet to be received. The election body said the digitisation of enumeration forms, along with BLO reports, of the remaining electors will also be completed by August 1.

Eligible voters whose names are left out can still be added after filling the prescribed forms during the next phase of the process between August 1 and September 1, and parties can also file objections to the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for the removal of ineligible voters, EC said.

In a statement, EC said that the lists of those electors who have not filled their enumeration forms or are deceased and those who have permanently shifted have already been shared with all 12 recognised political parties.

The political parties have collectively nominated 1,60813 BLAs so that errors, if any, can be rectified in the Draft Electoral Rolls to be published on August 1.

Op Sindoor continues, military preparedness must remain very high: CDS

NEW DELHI, JULY 25:

Asserting that Operation Sindoor "still continues", Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Friday said the country's military preparedness must remain at a "very high" level, round-the-clock and throughout the year.

"Military in future will also need information warriors, technology warriors and scholar warriors," he said in his keynote address at a defence seminar hosted at Subroto Park here.

"And, in an emerging landscape of warfare, a future soldier will need to be a mix of all three 'info, tech and scholar warriors,' the CDS said.

The seminar on 'Aerospace Power: Preserving India's Sovereignty and Furthering National Interests' was held under the



aegis of the 'No.4 Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme'.

The CDS said there are no runners-up in a war, and any military must be constantly alert and maintain a high degree of operational preparedness.

"An example is Operation Sindoor, which still continues. Our preparedness level has to be very high, 24x7, 365 days (a year)," Gen Chauhan said.

India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7 and decimated multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

Pakistan also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

The CDS also emphasised the importance of learning about both 'Shashtra' (warfare) and 'Shaashtra' (knowledge system).

Gen Chauhan defined a scholar warrior as a military professional who combines intellectual depth and combat skills, who possesses strong academic knowledge and practical military expertise that enable him to analyse complex situations and address "diverse challenges to meet military aims and objectives".

Oppn MPs tear, throw 'SIR' posters in bin as symbolic rejection of exercise

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Several MPs of the INDIA bloc parties, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi, on Friday held an unusual protest in Parliament House complex against the voter roll revision in Bihar by tearing posters with 'SIR' written on them and putting them in a 'disposal bin'.

They also staged a protest march in Parliament House complex, demanding the rollback as well as a discussion on the issue in both houses.

Ahead of the start of the day's proceedings, several MPs of the opposition, including those of the Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party, TMC, RJD and Left parties, carried out a protest march with the banner 'SIR-Loktantra par Var'.

Then in front of the Makar Dwar steps, a bin was placed and one by one the opposition leaders, including Kharge and Gandhi, tore the poster with SIR written on it and put it in the bin as a symbolic rejection of the exercise.

The MPs also raised slogans like "Save democracy" and "Stop vote-bandhi".



The opposition has been protesting in both houses of Parliament against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), alleging the EC's exercise was aimed at disenfranchising voters in Bihar ahead of the assembly elections.