



Japan demands swift release of Japanese national detained in Iran

'A Year Full Of Bold Choices': Kriti Sanon Sends Sweet Birthday Wish To Sanya Malhotra

HC declares holiday on Holi in Jammu wing

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh today declared holiday on the eve of Holi which would be observed on March 4 instead of March 3 in the Jammu wing of high court. "It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned that holiday on account of Holi shall be observed in Jammu wing of the high court on March 4, 2026 instead of March 3," a notification issued by registrar general M K Sharma said.

IAS officer Hazarika posted in J&K

In a significant administrative development, the Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered the posting of IAS officer Pranjal J Hazarika to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect. Hazarika was earlier serving in Delhi. As per a MHA order, Hazarika is among seven AGMUT cadre IAS officers who have been transferred from their present places of posting to other places.

ACB files DA case against police Inspector

ACB on Wednesday registered a disproportionate assets (DA) case against police Inspector Vijay Singh Choudhary, following a verification conducted on the basis of a specific input. The police inspector is brother of deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary. A verification was conducted by ACB into the allegations of possession of huge disproportionate assets by Vijay Singh Choudhary, officials said. He is presently posted in UT of Ladakh. According to officials,

J&K has put TET on hold: Itoo



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 25

Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said the Union Territory government had put on hold the conduct of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). She said Jammu and

Jitendra launches 'green' building construction at IIM



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 25

Union Minister Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone of a new state-of-the-art "green" building, possibly the first of its kind, at CSIR-IIIM (Council of Scientific and

Nothing can justify terrorism, India stands firmly with Israel: Modi

Netanyahu describes PM as 'more than friend, brother'

JERUSALEM, FEB 25: Condemning 'barbaric terrorist attack' by Hamas on October 7, 2023 and stating that 'we feel your pain, we share your grief', Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asserted that 'nothing can justify terrorism and India stands firmly with Israel in the fight against terrorism'.



"India firmly stands with Israel with full conviction in this moment," he said while addressing Israeli Parliament, Knesset, becoming the first prime minister to do so. "No cause can justify murder of civilians, nothing can justify terrorism," Modi added. "We discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Sectors such as technology, water management, agriculture, talent partnership and more offer immense scope for close collaboration. We also discussed key developments in the region," Modi said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed him to the Knesset. The prime minister landed in Israel to a red-carpet welcome with Netanyahu and wife Sara receiving him at Ben Gurion airport. It was PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years. The India-Israel relationship was elevated to the level of strategic partnership during his first visit to that country in July 2017. Netanyahu greeted the prime minister with a

and India, Netanyahu described Modi as 'more than a friend, a brother'. He spoke about the common interests that both countries share and thanked Modi for standing by Israel during the October 7 attacks in Israel. "You stood next to Israel, you stood for Israel, you stood for the truth. Thank you, my friend," said Netanyahu. In his pre-departure statement, Modi said India and Israel share a partnership that has witnessed "remarkable growth and dynamism" in recent years. He expressed confidence that the visit would consolidate enduring bonds, set new goals for the strategic partnership and advance a shared vision for a "resilient, innovative and prosperous future". The prime minister said he looks forward to discussions with Netanyahu to expand cooperation in science and technology, inno

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Conference on Disarmament Preserving strategic stability remains vital: India

GENEVA, FEB 25: India on Tuesday underscored the urgent need to preserve strategic stability and prevent a renewed arms race, warning of mounting global uncertainties as long-standing arms control arrangements come under strain. "The recent expiration of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) poses a significant setback for global arms control. India believes that preserving strategic stability and preventing an arms race remain vital, more than ever, for global security," foreign secretary Vikram Misri said while addressing the 2026 High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He highlighted that the High-Level Segment was taking place against the backdrop of a "profoundly uncertain geo-political and security environment", marked by rising military expenditures, stressed arm-control frameworks and rapid technological advances with military applications. Reiterating India's nuclear doctrine, he said, "India, as a responsible nuclear weapon State, is committed, as per its nuclear doctrine, to maintaining a credible minimum deterrent, and espouses a posture of 'no-first use' and non-use against non-nuclear weapon States." He affirmed India's commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament through a step-by-step multilateral framework, while supporting negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) based on the established mandate within the Conference. On emerging technologies, Misri noted that advances in science and technology are reshaping military effectiveness and introducing new forms of vulnerability and competition. India, he said, has called for a UN system-wide assessment of the impact of such developments on international security. Referring to artificial intelligence, he said India was committed to its responsible use in the military domain. "Human judgement and oversight in the use of AI in the military domain is essential to mitigate risks and to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law," he stated, adding that India has developed a domestic framework for evaluating trustworthy AI in defence, centred on principles including reliability, safety and transparency. He also clarified that decisions regarding nuclear weapons would remain under human control. The Foreign Secretary highlighted the recently concluded India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, which adopted the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact and drew participation from more than 100 countries. The Summit em

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Fight against terrorism must be intensified: Putin

MOSCOW, FEB 25: Setting out priorities for counterterrorism, border protection and national security amid heightened geopolitical tensions, President Vladimir Putin has emphasised the need for intensifying fight against terrorism. "Today's complex international environment, the sharp escalation of conflicts in a number of regions around the world, and the conduct of the special military operation require Federal Security Service personnel to demonstrate the utmost vigilance, discipline and



concentration," he said while addressing the annual board meeting of the Federal Security Service (FSB) here. The meeting was attended by FSB Director Alexander Bortnikov and senior members of the security establishment. Speaking against what

US announces 126 pc duty on imports of Indian solar goods

NEW DELHI, FEB 25: The US has announced preliminary countervailing duty of 125.87 per cent on imports of certain Indian solar goods alleging that the products are unfairly subsidised by New Delhi. The US has also announced different duties on the imports of 'Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled into Modules' from Indonesia and Laos. "On February 24, 2026, the US Department of Commerce announced its preliminary affirmative determinations in the coun-

tervaling duty investigations of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not assembled into modules (solar cells), from India, Indonesia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos)," a US order has said. These duties are different from the 10 per cent tariffs announced by the Trump administration on all countries from February 24. According to the order, solar imports from India into the US increased to USD 792.6 million in 2024 from USD 83.86 million in 2022. "Unless postponed, the final determination in these CVD investigations are currently scheduled to be issued on July 6, 2026. Commerce (department) is also conducting concurrent anti-dumping duty investigations of solar cells from India, Indonesia, and Laos," it said. Countervailing duties help companies to protect them from increase in subsidised imports. The US President had yesterday brought a new global tariff regime into force at a 10 per cent rate,

Delhi-Katra Expressway set for completion by next year: NHA

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The Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the fifth major expressway being developed in the country, is set for completion by March 2027. The construction of the National Expressway 5 (NE5), which began in April 2021, had significantly slowed last year due to Operation Sindoor as well as heavy rains & floods across northern states, a senior official of the Na-

tional Highways Authority of India said today. Once completed, the project is expected to considerably enhance regional connectivity, promote religious tourism and facilitate faster mobility for the armed forces, he said. The expressway will reduce the distance from Delhi to Katra from 727 to 588 kilometres, cutting travel time from 14 to about six hours, he added. Rajiv Kumar, project director, NHA (Project Implementation Unit Jammu), said, "Construc-

VP arrives on 2-day J&K visit



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 25

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan arrived here on Wednesday on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. A Business Boeing Jet carrying him landed at Srinagar airport in the evening. On his arrival at the airport, he was received by LG

Terror hideout busted; IEDs, pistol recovered



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Security forces today unearthed a terrorist hideout in a forward village in Jammu's Poonch district and recovered a cache of arms, including two ready-to-use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and a pistol. According to officials, a

CJI objects to NCERT book chapter on corruption in judiciary

NEW DELHI, FEB 25: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday strongly objected to a chapter on judicial corruption in the NCERT's Class 8 curriculum, saying that nobody on earth will be allowed to defame the judiciary and taint its integrity. A three-judge bench comprising the CJI and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi took suo motu cognizance of the "objectionable" statements about the judiciary in NCERT textbooks after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, alongside Abhishek Singhvi, mentioned the

FATF warns of rising cyber-enabled fraud, terrorist financing

PARIS, FEB 25: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has published a major new paper that highlights the growing threat of cyber-enabled fraud and its increasing intersections with money laundering (ML), terrorist financing (TF), and proliferation financing (PF), urging countries to bolster global standards and cooperation to counter the evolving digital crime landscape. According to the FATF's latest publication, Cyber-Enabled Fraud - Digitalisation & Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing & Proliferation Financing Risks, - has become "one of the most widespread and damaging profit-motivated forms of crime, generating large volumes of illicit proceeds through the exploitation of victims around the world." The report notes that in some jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom, fraud

SC questions NIA for referring to Shabir Shah's 'inflammatory' speeches

NEW DELHI, FEB 25: The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the NIA for referring to certain 'inflammatory' speeches of 1990s while opposing the bail plea of Kashmiri separatist Shabir Ahmed Shah in a terror funding case. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing arguments on Shah's bail plea, that there were materials, including inflammatory videos and incriminating e-

mails, against Shah. When senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the NIA, referred to some transcripts of videos, the bench asked about the date of the speeches. Luthra said the agency had the dates for some of the videos and they were from the 1990s. "These speeches are not a new creation. These are something which were already there, say 30 years or 35 years before today. Now, you recover them in 2019 and say that these are the inflammatory speeches," the bench said. Luthra said there were inflammatory videos which were found from Shah's premises when his house was searched. He also said there were statements of witnesses against Shah as well. The bench asked Luthra about the stage of trial in the case. The senior advocate referred to the February 19 order of the trial court and said 34 witnesses were al

Ladakh fast emerging as global tourism hub: Kavinder

NEW DELHI, FEB 25: Stating that Ladakh was fast emerging as a global tourism hub, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today invited tourists to explore the UT, saying: "Kuch din to aayen Ladakh mein." "The world-class road infrastructure has strengthened connectivity from Leh to remote border areas of the UT, enhancing accessibility and boosting tourism potential," he said in his address at the 33rd annual edition of South Asia Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE), a premier travel & tourism exposition here.



Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, delegates, industry leaders and tour & travel operators from across India & abroad, prominent personalities from tourism industries comprising Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India; Anita Mendiratta, General of UN Tourism (formerly UNWTO); Suman Billa, Additional Secretary & Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travel Group; Dr Upasana Arora,