



Emerging Technologies Will Define Next Phase Of India-US Ties: Ambassador Kwatra

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Disha Patani reflects on a decade in Bollywood

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Yatra briefings restricted to div coms, IGP

The government has authorised only four senior officers to interact with media and conduct press briefings on matters related to Shri Amarnathji Yatra in a move aimed at ensuring the dissemination of authentic and verified information.

According to a circular issued by the tourism department on Tuesday, the divisional commissioner, Jammu, and the IGP, Jammu, have been authorised to brief the media on matters concerning Jammu division.

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Vistadome train operations curtailed

The Northern Railway's Jammu division has temporarily curtailed the operation of the Vistadome Special train ahead of the annual Amarnathji Yatra, with the service set to run only between Banihal and Budgam from July 1 to August 31.

The services of the special train with a Vistadome coach were extended to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station in February this year, marking a signif-

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ACB arrests 2 revenue officials in graft case

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today trapped and arrested two revenue officials in an alleged bribery case.

According to officials, an ACB team arrested a patwari, who was identified as Shashi Kumar of Patwar Halqa Gole, and his assistant Harkeerat Singh, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 70,000.

ACB received a written complaint, alleging therein that the accused had demanded Rs 70,000 as illegal gratification from the com-

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ACC approves key appointments

NEW DELHI, JUN 30: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday approved two significant appointments involving senior Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers, according to separate orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

In the first order, the ACC approved the appointment of Shri Amit Kumar, IPS (Bihar Cadre: 1994), presently serving as Special Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Spe-

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Mahesh Dixit takes over as IB chief



NEW DELHI, JUN 30: Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit on Tuesday took charge as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), succeeding Tapan Kumar Deka who retired after a four-year tenure.

Dixit, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Andhra

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From Brass Tortoise to Kanchivaram Silk

Modi showcases India's cultural heritage to Seychelles leadership

NEW DELHI, JUN 30: Showcasing the rich tapestry of India's handloom heritage and timeless artisanal brilliance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a curated selection of traditional Indian crafts to the top leadership of Seychelles during his high-profile three-day official visit to the island nation.

The exchange of these meticulously chosen diplomatic presents beautifully highlighted the deep-rooted cultural ties and shared environmental values between New Delhi and Victoria.

Seychelles President Patrick Herminie was presented with a Muradabadi Brass Tortoise.

Handcrafted by skilled metalsmiths from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, globally celebrated as India's "Brass City", the piece highlights the region's extraordinary expertise in metal casting, engraving and finishing.



In Indian philosophy, the tortoise stands as a timeless symbol of wisdom, stability, resilience and longevity.

This gift holds special significance for Seychelles, whose natural heritage is intimately connected to the iconic Aldabra Giant Tortoise, making the presentation a thoughtful bridge between India's craftsmanship and the island nation's unique ecological identity.

First Lady Veronique Herminie was presented with two exquisite examples

of Indian artistic mastery: a Maheshwari Silk Stole and a Bidriware Box.

Hailing from Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh, the elegant Maheshwari Silk Stole blends fine silk and cotton yarns and is adorned with delicate geometric and floral-inspired motifs in soft hues, representing a refined handloom tradition preserved for generations.

The accompanying Bidriware Box, originating from Bidar in Karnataka, showcases an intricate contrast of

bright silver inlay against a deep black, oxidised metallic surface of zinc and copper alloy, with geometric and floral motifs meticulously inlaid by hand with fine silver wire.

Vice President Sebastien Pillay received an Orchid Art Painting from Sikkim, chosen by the Prime Minister.

The exquisite artwork masterfully blends the state's floral heritage with India's national bird, the peacock, gracefully depicted amidst delicate orchid blooms and intricate vines.

The painting captures a beautiful diplomatic resonance because, while the peacock reflects India's cultural soul, the orchid stands proudly as the National Flower of Seychelles, symbolising both nations' shared commitment to environmental conservation and biodiversity.

Second Lady Lina Pillay, wife of Vice President Se-

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Gen Dhiraj Seth takes charge as new Army Chief

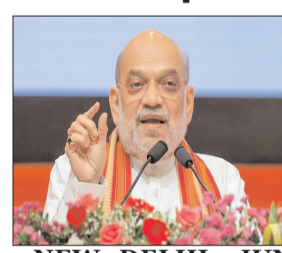


NEW DELHI, JUN 30: Gen Dhiraj Seth, an accomplished military officer with the rare distinction of heading two operational Army commands along the Western Front, today took charge as the new Chief of Army Staff.

He assumed the reins of

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Shah launches FCRA 2.0 portal



NEW DELHI, JUN 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the FCRA 2.0 portal and the e-OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) system on Tuesday.

According to the Home Ministry, the FCRA 2.0 portal has been developed to simplify compliance and strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms under the Foreign Contri-

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2 killed in truck-tractor collision

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 30

In a truck-tractor collision on the National Highway at Peerah in Ramban district late last night, two persons lost their lives while two others, including a woman, sustained critical injuries.

According to officials, the incident took place late Monday night after a truck, which was on its way from Jammu to Srinagar, rammed into a tractor at Peerah.

In the collision, an unidentified man died on the spot, while three others

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Wars will be more integrated, theatre-oriented: Gen Dwivedi

NEW DELHI, JUN 30: In future, wars will be more joint, integrated and theatre-oriented, therefore, armed forces' direction is clear "to see together, take decisions together and take actions together", outgoing Army Chief General Upen- dra Dwivedi said today.

Gen Dwivedi, an accomplished military leader with over 40 years of service who retires today, was accorded a guard of honour as part of a ceremonial farewell held on the lawns of the South Block.

In his remarks to the media on the sidelines of the event, Gen Dwivedi said,



"Today, as I complete my tenure as the Chief of the Army Staff, I feel a sense of deep gratitude, pride and satisfaction."

Gen Dwivedi took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff in June 2024.

"The journey from Sainik School till now has been incredible. To serve the In-

dian Army for over four decades has been the greatest fortune in my life," he said.

The Indian Army draws its strength "not from one individual, but from its soldiers, commanders, veterans, families, and the unshakeable faith of the country's citizens", the outgoing Army chief said.

"I offer my gratitude to the fallen heroes of our Army," he said.

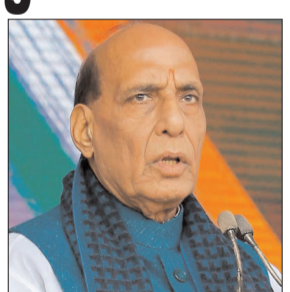
Prior to the farewell ceremony, the Army chief visited the National War Memorial where he laid a wreath to honour the coun-

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Strong economy, national security pillars of great nation: Def Min

VADODARA (GUJARAT), JUN 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said the Vibrant Gujarat platform has evolved into a nationwide movement contributing to the vision of a "Viksit Bharat", while asserting that a strong economy, technological capability and national security together form the foundation of a strong nation.

"The initiative is helping Gujarat move forward through new ideas and opportunities," he said while addressing the valedictory session of Vibrant Gujarat



Regional Conference at Vadodara.

"This is an effort to take Gujarat forward through new ideas and new possibilities. I also visited the exhibition here. There is representation from several sectors, including industry, MSMEs, tribal products

and heavy industries. The work being done in the defence industry is also commendable. You inspire us to create a favourable environment for private industry," he said.

Praising Gujarat's contribution to the nation, Singh said the state had produced several iconic leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Gujarat gave the country Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and it is this soil that also gave

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Kavinder calls for equal opportunities for persons with disabilities

SHIMLA, JUN 30: Calling upon persons with disabilities to face life with courage, confidence and determination, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today urged them to never allow physical limitations to define their potential.

"Perseverance, self-belief and hard work can overcome every obstacle as every individual possesses unique abilities and deserves equal opportunities to lead a life of dignity, independence and self-reliance," he said while addressing beneficiaries after inaugurating an Artificial



Limb Distribution Camp at Lok Bhavan here.

The camp was organised by NGO 'ACT Humane' in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh State Red Cross Society. Around 15

beneficiaries from different districts of the state were provided with prosthetic limbs and other assistive devices, enabling them to regain mobility and lead

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J&K's 1st Int'l Film Festival

Omar reviews preparations, lays roadmap for mega event

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 30

In a review meeting held to assess preparations for the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid out a roadmap for the mega event and said that it was aimed at restoring the region's historical prominence in cinematic production.

He described the film festival as a landmark initiative to revive the region's cinematic legacy. The meeting held extensive deliberations on the festival's vision, its screening & programming strategy, branding, digital outreach, industry partnerships and international participation.

Director Information & Public Relations Shreya Singhal gave a comprehensive presentation, outlining the proposed framework for the inaugural edition of the festival.

Reviewing the proposals,



the chief minister said the festival should evolve into a globally recognised cinematic event, celebrating storytelling while showcasing Jammu & Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions and emerging creative talent.

He stressed the need to deliver a professionally curated festival of international standards capable of attracting renowned filmmakers, producers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from across the world.

Abdullah underlined that the festival must not be viewed merely as a film event but as a defining cultural and economic plat-

form for Jammu & Kashmir.

He said it should generate opportunities in tourism, investment, employment and the creative economy while reaffirming J&K's historic place as India's preferred destination for film production, creative pursuits and cinematic tourism.

Emphasising the importance of nurturing local creative ecosystem, he directed that local filmmakers, writers, directors, actors, cinematographers, technicians, photographers, designers, artisans, craftsmen and other creative professionals be also

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra

Heavy motor vehicle movement restricted on NH

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 30

In view of the commencement of annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, with the first batch of pilgrims scheduled to leave Jammu on July 2 for the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas, the movement of heavy vehicles has been restricted on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Traffic authorities have

issued an advisory in this regard, according to officials.

As per the advisory, no movement of Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMsVs) would be allowed from Qazigund towards Jammu and from Jakhani (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after 7 pm on July 1, 2026. However, Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) would be permitted to move till 11 pm.

Traffic police said that after the movement of the yatra convoy on July 2, up-

direction LMVs, private cars and passenger service vehicles (HPSVs) would be allowed from Nagrota (Jammu) towards Udhampur once the tail of the up yatra convoy crosses Jakhani (Udhampur).

Similarly, down-direction LMVs, private cars and HPSVs would be allowed from Qazigund towards Jammu after the tail of the down Baltal yatra convoy crosses Marog. Commuters have been advised to follow daily traffic

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Major operational breakthrough for SFs; top OGW held

Has aided infiltration of multiple terrorists

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 30

Right before the commencement of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, security forces have apprehended a top OGW who has facilitated infiltration by multiple terrorists into the Indian territory from Kathua border over the years.

"He was operating as a key facilitator for Pakistan-based terror outfits, and his capture serves as a major



operational breakthrough for security forces," officials said.

He was identified as Haji Mohammad Lateef, a resident of Kathua district. His arrest had given a massive

blow to the terror modules planning to disrupt the region, officials said.

"He has helped multiple terrorists to infiltrate into Kathua district from across the IB," officials said.

Following intelligence inputs about his contacts across the border, he was under police scanner. After a probe established his involvement in the acts of cross-border terrorism, he was picked up by a police team to extract exact details from him about his associa-

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J&K Bank marks 1 yr of Mission YUVA with mega credit drive

Disburses loans to 2,828 enterprises

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUNE 30

Marking the successful completion of one year of the flagship Mission YUVA programme, J&K Bank organised a UT-wide Mega Disbursal Day, significantly accelerating credit flow to young entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a major achievement, the bank disbursed loans to 2,828 enterprises in a single day, reaffirming its commitment to entrepre-



neurship, self-employment, and inclusive economic growth in the Union Territory.

The campaign culminated with Managing Director and CEO Amitava

Chatterjee symbolically launching the mega disbursal drive during a virtual event held at the bank's corporate headquarters. Senior officials, includ-

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