



**Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Gets 1-Year Extension In Service**

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**Akanksha Chamola announces divorce from Gaurav Khanna on Lock Upp 2**

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## Machail Mata, Mindhal yatras suspended

Pilgrimages to the holy Machail Mata & Mindhal Mata shrines in Jammu's Kishtwar district were suspended today due to adverse weather conditions triggered by heavy monsoon rains.

Officials said the decision was taken in view of incessant rainfall, slippery roads and the risk of shooting stones to ensure the safety of pilgrims. "In view of the adverse weather conditions prevailing across Kishtwar, including continuous rainfall, slippery road con

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## Security stepped up at railway station

The Jammu Railway Division has strengthened security and taken passenger facilitation measures at the station here ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with a special focus on pilgrim safety, crowd management and essential amenities.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3 simultaneously from

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## IPS officer arrested in graft case

The CBI has arrested a senior IPS officer posted on central deputation in the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), in connection with an alleged Rs 3 cr bribery case linked to the agency's probe into a fake drug manufacturing racket.

Deepak Gahlawat, a 2012-batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, was serving as BCAS regional director at the time of the alleged offence. He is accused of assuring a Pucherry-based businessman a favourable outcome in the CBI probe

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## Ashutosh Dixit takes charge as Vice Chief of IAF



**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who served as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff during Operation Sindoor, took charge as the new Vice Chief of the Air Staff today.

He succeeded Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, who superannuated on June 30 after four decades of service

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## ATF, commercial LPG prices cut

**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and commercial LPG prices were cut on Wednesday as easing tensions in West Asia pulled down international oil prices, while private fuel retailer Nayara Energy lowered petrol and diesel prices, becoming the first retailer in more than two years to reduce pump rates.

ATF prices were reduced by about Rs 5 per litre, bringing the price in Delhi to around Rs 110 per litre, industry sources said. The reduction is the first since the recent spike triggered by the West Asia conflict.

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# Indian Army combat-ready, battle-hardened: Gen Seth

## Unveils 'VIJAY' roadmap

**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** Coining acronym 'VIJAY', Army Chief Gen Dhiraj Seth today said 'Indian Army is a combat-ready, battle-hardened force and the aim is to build a technology-enabled, future-ready Army capable of operating in multiple domains'.

In the acronym VIJAY, 'V' for vigilance, 'I' for innovation, 'J' for jointness and integration, 'A' for Aatmanirbhata and 'Y' for 'Yodha first'.

Gen Seth, an accomplished military officer with the rare distinction of heading two operational Army commands along the Western Front, took charge as the Army chief yesterday, succeeding Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who retired on June 30 after an illustrious career spanning over 40 years.

"Indian Army is a combat-ready and battle-hardened force, which is always ready to face all challenges in a



battlefield," he said while speaking to reporters after receiving a guard of honour on the lawns of the South Block here.

"To assume charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is a moment of pride and humility for me. I accept this responsibility with deep commitment to the ideals of duty, honour and nation first," he said.

He also offered tributes to the brave soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

"Their courage, commitment to duty and selfless dedication will continue to

ful in all forms, and capable of operating in multiple domains," the general officer asserted.

In keeping with this vision, Gen Seth said he has identified some "focus areas" inspired by the 'Decade of Transformation' (2023-2032), a modernisation and restructuring roadmap envisaged by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the Indian Army.

"I have put them together in an acronym - 'VIJAY'. 'V' stands for vigilance, 'I' for innovation, 'J' for jointness and integration, 'A' for Aatmanirbhata and 'Y' for 'Yodha first'," Gen Seth said.

He took over as the COAS at a time when the global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and the ever-changing character of modern warfare.

Prior to becoming the 31st COAS, he served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. "To meet the challenges of a changing security environment, we must take forward the modernisation of the army with new vigour and firm determination.

"Our aim is to forge a technology-enabled, future-ready army which is power-

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## 'Digital India' has given India new identity worldwide: Modi

**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lauded the Digital India initiative of the government, and said it had redefined governance, empowered citizens and accelerated all-round development by touching every aspect of life.

Eleven years of Digital India has given India a new identity worldwide, he asserted.

"Today, we mark 11 years since the Digital India initiative was launched. This initiative has redefined governance, empowered citizens and accelerated all-round development. It has



touched every aspect of life," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said from seamless digital payments and direct benefit transfers reaching beneficiaries with transparency to the expanding digital public infrastructure, technology has become a powerful instrument for furthering 'Ease of Living.'

"Digital India has taken the wave of innovation to all parts of India, especially villages, tier-2 and tier-3 cities," he said.

Modi said young entrepreneurs, startups and innovators from every corner of the country are creating solutions to the pressing challenges that the planet faces.

This initiative has strengthened education, healthcare, agriculture, commerce and public service delivery, making governance more transparent, ef

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## Southwest Monsoon covers J&K, Ladakh; MeT warns of heavy rains

**Himalayan Mail News DODA, JUL 01**

As the Southwest Monsoon today advanced into most parts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, covering the entire meteorological subdivision, a day later than the normal onset date of June 30, the meteorological department warned of heavy rains.

According to the meteorological department (MeT), widespread rainfall was recorded across parts of the Jammu division during the past 24 hours which

led to a rise in the water level of Tawi and Chenab rivers, besides some seasonal water bodies.

The MeT department forecast generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir from July 1 to 4.

Heavy rainfall, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, and gusty winds were likely at a few places during this period.

From July 5 to 8, the weather was expected to remain generally hot and hu-

mid, with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at scattered to many places. Brief intense heavy showers were also likely at isolated places in Jammu division.

The department has issued an advisory, asking people to remain vigilant as heavy rainfall or brief intense showers at a few locations could trigger localised flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas of Jammu division, the Pir Panjal Range, the Chenab area, and the adjoining pockets of South

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## India asks Pak to free 188 prisoners; seeks consular access to 13

**NEW DELHI, JUN 01:** India has asked Pakistan to expedite the release and repatriation of 188 Indian fishermen and civil prisoners who have completed their sentences, while also seeking immediate consular access to 13 civil prisoners believed to be Indian, as the two countries exchanged their biannual lists of prisoners under the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access.

The exchange of lists took place simultaneously through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad, in line with the agreement, which man-

dates the exercise every year on January 1 and July 1.

India shared the names of 386 civil prisoners and 53 fishermen in its custody who are believed to be Pakistani. Pakistan, in turn, shared the names of 52 civil prisoners and 198 fishermen in its custody who are Indian or believed to be Indian.

In a statement, the MEA said, "Pakistan has been urged to expedite the release and repatriation of 188 Indian fishermen and civil prisoners, who have completed their sentences."

The ministry also pressed Islamabad to provide "immediate consular access to the 13 civil prisoners in Pakistan's custody, who are believed to be Indian and have not been provided consular access so far."

Reiterating India's longstanding position, the MEA said New Delhi has consistently sought the early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel believed to be in Pakistan's custody.

It also urged Pakistan "to

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## Sinha visits Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas

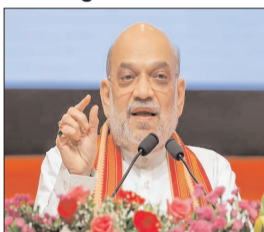


**Himalayan Mail News DODA, JUL 01**

LG Manoj Sinha today visited Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here and reviewed arrangements in place for the pilgrims ahead of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

He took appraisal of logistics, lodging, security arrangements, health facil

## Panel on demographic changes meets Shah



**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** The High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes called upon Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday, officials said.

The committee, chaired by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar (Retired), told the home minister that they would begin visiting states and Union Territories to gather first-hand ground-level details, ac

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## Cloudbursts hit Doda, trigger flash floods

**Himalayan Mail News DODA, JUL 01**

Heavy rainfall today triggered two cloudbursts in Kalalgisar area of Bhalessa in Doda district, causing flash floods and debris flows that blocked several roads.

"Authorities are closely monitoring the situation as continuous heavy rain continues to impact the region, raising concerns of further landslides and road disruptions," officials said.

"The flash floods brought down large amounts of debris, cutting off connectivity to multiple villages in the

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## Off-line registration for Amarnath Yatra begins LG to flag off first batch of pilgrims for holy cave shrine

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 01**

As Amarnath pilgrims, drawn from different parts of the country, are all set to start their sacred journey to the holy abode of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas, LG Manoj Sinha would officially flag off the first batch of yatris from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in the wee hours of Thursday morning.

From here, the yatris would leave in convoys for the twin base camps of Pahalgam & Baltal in the valley amid tight security.

The LG had on June 29 performed 'Pratham Puja' at the holy cave shrine, marking the ceremonial start of the annual pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, a day before the commencement of the annual yatra, the off-line registration of pilgrims commenced here today, with hundreds of devotees turning up at the designated centres.

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## Gadkari announces completion of Viaduct, Tunnel on NH

**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** Union Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari today announced the completion of two major infrastructure projects on the National Highway-44 in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at improving connectivity and ensuring safer travel to the valley.

LG Manoj Sinha thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gadkari on the completion of two vital infrastructure projects.

"These engineering marvels bypass one of the most landslide-prone stretches of the Ramban-Banihal



section, ensuring safer, faster, and all-weather connectivity to the valley," he said in a post on X.

The projects would significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety, and enable the seamless movement of tourists, local commuters, defence vehi-

cles, freight and essential supplies throughout the year, he said.

"The newly completed infrastructure bypasses one of the most landslide-prone stretches of the Ramban-Banihal section on NH-44, providing safer,

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## Non-supply of chargesheet copy can't be ground for default bail: SC

**NEW DELHI, JUL 01:** The Supreme Court today ruled that the non-supply of a copy of the chargesheet to an accused cannot be a ground for a default bail.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Nongmeikapam Kotishwar Singh said this while upholding an order of the Bombay High Court which had rejected a man's plea seeking default bail on the ground of non-supply of a chargesheet copy to him.

The top court said non-filing of additional copies of the chargesheet under Section 193(8) of the BNSS would not vitiate the

chargesheet itself.

The apex court said that as was the case under the erstwhile CrPC, the position under BNSS is to remain that the right to default bail arises when the chargesheet is not filed within a period of 60 or 90 days, as applicable.

"Once the chargesheet is filed, in compliance with the form prescribed under Section 193(3) BNSS, within the aforesaid period, the right to default bail ceases. Non-compliance with Section 193(8) of the BNSS cannot be construed to give the same result as Section 187(3) of the BNSS," it said.

Section 187(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, governs "default bail".

The top court was hearing a plea filed by an accused arrested in connection with a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for an alleged large-scale cyber fraud case involving approximately Rs 3.81 crore.

The CBI claimed that unknown cyber criminals are using sophisticated digital means to extort money from individuals which included using tools for impersonation

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## Kavinder calls for mission-mode campaign against drug abuse

**SHIMLA, JUL 01:** Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that children must be educated about the harmful effects of substance abuse from an early age and called upon society to wage a collective mission against drugs to safeguard the future of the younger generation.

"The campaign represents a national resolve to build an India free from the shackles of addiction, where young people achieve success through their talent, determination and hard work rather than falling prey to substance



abuse," he said while addressing the inaugural session of "Elevate - Experience the Real High - A Step Towards Drug-Free Himachal", organised by

Anuvrat Vishwa Bharati Society at Lok Bhavan here.

The event marked the launch of the society's

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