



SC mulls larger bench reference in Meghalaya honeymoon murder case

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Janhvi Kapoor's hidden mehendi message for Shikhar Pahariya sends fans into a frenzy

P-10

Spillway gates of Salal Dam opened

Multiple spillway gates of Salal Dam in Reasi district of Jammu were today opened, following a sharp increase in the level of water inflow caused by heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas.

Officials said the gates were opened to regulate the rising water level in the reservoir and ensure the safe management of excess inflows into Chenab River.

The increased inflow is attributed to widespread rainfall in the dam's catchment areas over the past

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Mortar shell defused

A mortar shell, which was today found in an agricultural field in a forward area of Poonch district, was defused by Army.

It was first spotted by some villagers who were working in their field. After they alerted the authorities concerned, Army & police personnel reached the spot and defused the device, officials said.

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SPO disengaged for dereliction of duty

A Special Police Officer was today disengaged from service in Anantnag district of the valley for remaining absent from Amarnath Yatra security duties.

He was identified as Shabir Ahmad Ganie, son of Abdul Hamid Ganie of Primegam Hiller Shahabad, Dooru.

According to officials, he had been deployed for Shri Amarnathji Yatra security duty but failed to report at his designated place of posting despite receiving official deployment orders.

The SPO remained ab

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Narcotics worth Rs 2.33 cr destroyed

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

Following the prescribed legal procedure, Kathua police today destroyed narcotics worth Rs 2.33 cr seized in 43 NDPS cases.

The destroyed narcotics included 2.05 kg of heroin, 7.68 kg of ganja, 162.649 kg of poppy straw, 2.126 kg of charas, 482 grams of opium, 1,036 capsules and 909 tablets, officials said.

The destruction was carried out through incineration at an authorised facility at Rara in Samba district by

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Govt forms committee to implement health reforms

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

The government today constituted a six-member core implementation committee to oversee and accelerate health sector reforms in the health and medical education department.

According to the order, Akriti Sagar, Mission Director, J&K National Health Mission, would be the chairperson of the committee.

The committee shall serve as Core Implementation Committee for Health Reforms and shall, inter

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Eye on Indo-Pacific

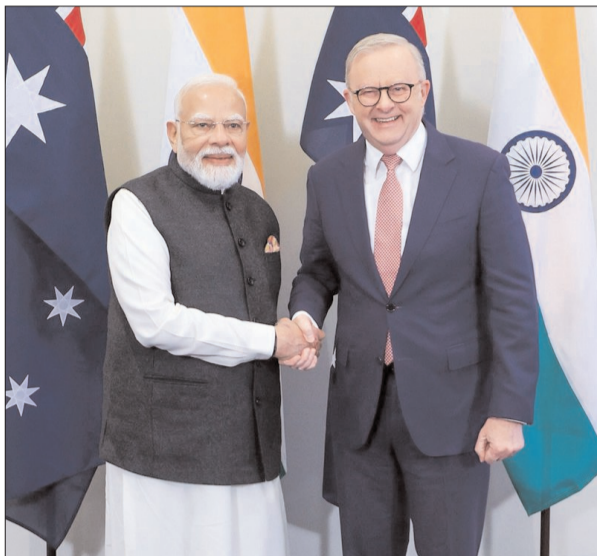
India, Australia seal key pacts in uranium, LNG, defence

MELBOURNE, Jul 09: India and Australia today signed key pacts on nuclear, energy and defence that seeks to bind the two countries closer along the Indo-Pacific model, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese reinforced the vital role of the bilateral partnership in ensuring a peaceful Indo-Pacific.

The two countries sealed a raft of landmark pacts spanning civil nuclear energy, maritime security and critical minerals sectors.

Modi held wide-ranging talks with the Australian leader, a day after landing in Australia from Indonesia in the second leg of his three-nation tour that is aimed at boosting trade and defence ties against the backdrop of an increasingly fractured geopolitical environment.

Following the Modi-Albanese meeting, the two sides unveiled an India-Aus-



tralia joint declaration on defence and security, a joint statement on energy ties and a roadmap for collaboration in cyber, critical technologies and supply chains.

The pact on civil nuclear energy will facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to help New Delhi's nuclear power projects.

The two sides also decided to work expeditiously on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement as well as on a bilateral investment protection pact.

"Today, we have signed an important agreement in the field of nuclear energy. This will open the way for uranium supplies from Australia to India and give new impetus to our clean energy

objectives," Modi said in his media statement.

"Our cooperation in critical minerals is vital to our strategic security and clean energy transition. With this in mind, today we have launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains," he said.

Modi said both sides will also work together on a critical minerals corridor.

The prime minister also mentioned growing engagement between the two countries in the defence domain and emphasised the importance of a free and stable Indo-Pacific.

The new initiatives to bolster defence ties came amid growing concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific.

"The Indo-Pacific is not just the confluence of two oceans. It also symbolises the shared aspirations of like-minded democracies

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EAM reviews India-Kuwait strategic ties



NEW DELHI, JUL 09: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday concluded his visit to Kuwait, during which he met Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the ministers

Cont. on P9 >

Hunt continues for 2nd terrorist

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

A day after the killing of a Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist, security forces today continued searches for his associate in south Kashmir's Shopian district, with the operation entering its sixth day.

The operation was launched in Meemandar-Chanapora area of Shopian on July 4. One terrorist was killed yesterday while his associate remained untraced.

Officials said searches continued for the second terrorist, who was believed

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Army Chief reviews security along LoC



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

Chief of Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth today visited forward areas along the LoC in Poonch district and reviewed the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and combat

Cont. on P9 >

LG reviews yatra arrangements, interacts with pilgrims

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

As Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage progresses smoothly, LG Manoj Sinha today reviewed arrangements for the hoy yatra and interacted with pilgrims at Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk in Srinagar.

Officials said Sinha visited Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk and reviewed the arrangements made for pilgrims of ongoing Shri Amarnathji yatra.

On the occasion, he interacted with the officials concerned & pilgrims, and enquired about the facilities. He directed the officials to ensure that every devotee of Almighty Shiva receives round-the-clock care.

"From registration to accommodation and food, no pilgrim should face any inconvenience. It must be our collective responsibility to make their stay in Jammu & Kashmir divine and comfortable," the LG told the officials.



He took stock of the arrangements, including accommodation, sanitation, security, healthcare, drinking water, power supply, firefighting measures and other essential services made by different departments to ensure the comfort and safety of the yatri coming to J&K from different parts of the country and abroad.

"The figures from the past week reveal that this year's yatra has witnessed a greater number of devotees compared to last year. This surge is not only a blessing for our spiritual heritage but also a positive sign for tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, giving a fresh momentum to the local

economy," he said. "I want that the rich handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir should travel across the country, and this unique heritage finds a place in every devotee's home. This will honor our artisans and it will also strengthen the spirit of 'One District One Product' campaign, weaving together faith, culture and prosperity," he added.

The LG also lauded the coordinated efforts of the district administration, all line departments, shrine board, police, security forces and other stakeholders in the smooth conduct of the yatra.

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra

8th batch of 8,150 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

Amid tight security, the eighth batch of 8,150 pilgrims today left Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas.

Officials said that 8,150 pilgrims left the Jammu base camp early in the morning in a fleet of 334 vehicles comprising light motor and heavy motor vehicles.

The batch comprised 3,445 pilgrims for Baltal and 4,705 for Pahalgam. Baltal & Pahalgam are the two base camps in the valley.

Pilgrims left for the yatra under a multi-layered security grid, with coordinated arrangements by the civil administration, police, security forces and the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board for the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra.

The yesterday's batch of 9,837 pilgrims was the largest since the start of the

pilgrimage, surpassing the previous highest of 8,815 pilgrims on Tuesday.

The Amarnathji cave houses a naturally formed ice-Shivalingam. The administration has repeatedly urged unregistered pilgrims planning to undertake the yatra to postpone their journey by a few days, saying all registration slots had been booked till July 9 due to an unprecedented influx of devotees.

Officials also announced

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India, Russia condemn Pahalgam attack, Red Fort blast

Seek action against terrorists

NEW DELHI, JUL 09: India and Russia have jointly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the Pahalgam attack and the terror incident near Red Fort in Delhi last year at a key meeting held here.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation on bilateral as well as multilateral platforms.

During the 14th meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on Wednesday,

the two sides also called for "concerted action against terrorists and terrorist groups, including those listed in the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee and their proxy groups and affiliates", the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Dmitry Lyubinsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, it said in a statement.

Representatives of relevant departments and agencies from both sides also participated in the meeting.

"Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack at Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, on April 22, 2025 and the terror incident near Red Fort, New Delhi on November 10, 2025," the MEA said.

"They called for concerted action against terrorists and

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6 IAS, IPS officers shifted out of J&K; 11 posted in UT

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today ordered a reshuffle of AG-MUT cadre officers, transferring two IAS officers out of Jammu and Kashmir and posting three IAS officers to the Union Territory with immediate effect.

Similarly, four IPS officers were transferred out of the UT and eight were posted in the region.

According to the order, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary

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J&K Bank, Census Directorate sign MoU for census awareness campaign



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JUL 09

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, J&K Bank today signed a strate-

gic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to jointly undertake media, publicity and public aware-

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Worsening security in Pak raises concerns for foreign investors

ISLAMABAD, JUL 09:

Pakistan's worsening security environment, particularly in Karachi and the country's western regions, is continuing to undermine investor confidence and disrupt business operations, according to the latest security survey conducted by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

The annual OICCI Security Survey 2026, carried out in June among major foreign investors operating in Pakistan, found that security has become one of the three biggest concerns for

the leadership of 71 per cent of member companies.

Respondents said persistent law and order issues remain a significant obstacle to attracting investment and expanding business activity.

The survey highlighted worsening security perceptions in several regions. Around 42 per cent of respondents said the security situation in Karachi had worsened, while an overwhelming 81 per cent in Quetta and 86 per cent across the rest of Balochistan reported a decline in overall security conditions.

Businesses also reported

growing concerns over employee safety during daily commutes, particularly in Karachi and Quetta, reflecting the broader impact of insecurity on routine operations.

Street crime continued to be the leading concern among businesses. Half of the surveyed companies reported an increase in street crime in Karachi compared to the previous year, while Quetta also witnessed a notable rise in such incidents.

Overall, nearly one-third of respondents said the security environment affect

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Officers must become agents of good governance: Kavinder

SHIMLA, JUL 09: In an interaction with 27 HAS & Allied Services probationers, who called on him at Lok Bhavan here today, Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that officers must become agents of good governance and partners in building a Developed India.

The probationers are undergoing foundation course at Dr Manmohan Singh Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, Shimla.

The governor called upon the trainee officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, trans-



parency and public service, stating that an administrative officer was not merely a government functionary but a vital bridge between the government and the people.

He congratulated them on joining the prestigious State Civil Service and described it as an opportunity to serve society with dedication, sensitivity and com-

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