



2 mortar shells recovered, defused

Two mortar shells were today recovered near the LoC in Mankote sub-sector of Poonch district. According to officials, the shells were found in the border Choki Sagra area of the Mendhar sub-division. Army personnel of bomb disposal squad destroyed the shells in a controlled explosion after following all necessary safety protocols, officials said. No loss of life or damage to property was reported in the operation, the officials added.

3 held with heroin, cash

Police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered from them heroin, electronic weighing machines, cash and mobile phones. According to officials, the breakthrough came as part of the ongoing drive of police against drug trafficking under the drug-free campaign when a Mahindra Thar was intercepted during routine checking at a traffic naka at Channi Himmat.

Cont. on P9 >

Employees asked to complete iGOT Karmayogi training

The government has directed all the employees registered on GAD MDO Portal to immediately enroll in and complete the courses assigned to them on the iGOT Karmayogi Portal, as part of the government's Capacity Building Programme (CBP). According to a circular, the GAD informed that CBP, finalised by the committee constituted under government order No 1342-JK (GAD) of October 14, 2025, had been uploaded on the iGOT Karmayogi platform for implementation.

Cont. on P9 >

High-Altitude Wildlife Safari to begin in Ladakh



LEH, AUG 06: LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today approved introducing "wildlife safari" on popular snow-leopard and bird-watching trails in high-altitude regions of the Union Territory. This would be India's first-ever "high-altitude wildlife safari", providing visitors with a rare guided opportunity to witness Ladakh's distinctive

Bangladesh to hold presidential election on Aug 20

DHAKA, AUG 06: Bangladesh's presidential election will be held on August 20, the Election Commission announced on Thursday, two weeks after President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigned on health grounds before completing his five-year term. Shahabuddin, 76, was a longtime ally of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. "Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin has finalised the dates in consultation with (acting parliamentary) Speaker Kayser Kamal," the Election

Cont. on P9 >



CJP to launch 'kya bolti public' campaign next month, says Dipke

P- 7

Musafir Cafe gets Season 2 green light weeks after its cliffhanger ending

P-10



Modi, Netanyahu discuss West Asia crisis, strategic ties

Commit to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today received a telephone call from his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, during which the two leaders reviewed the sustained progress in the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership and exchanged views on the latest developments in West Asia.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation across various sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "PM Netanyahu and PM Modi exchanged views on the recent developments in West Asia. They agreed to remain in touch," the statement said.

The conversation comes amid continuing tensions

The conversation comes amid continuing tensions in West Asia, where the conflict has persisted for more than five months without a permanent resolution.

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Iran on Thursday said it was in the final stage of drafting an agreement with Oman on the Strait of Hormuz, while two Israeli soldiers were reported killed in Lebanon.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global shipping route through which, before the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February, around one-fifth of the world's oil and natural gas supplies passed.

"Received a phone call from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We re-

viewed progress on various aspects of the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership which continues to grow from strength-to-strength. We also exchanged views on the current situation in West Asia," PM Modi said on X while sharing details of the conversation. The latest conversation follows regular high-level engagement between the two countries. The two leaders had also spoken in March 2026 to discuss the regional situation in West Asia.

India and Israel have continued to deepen cooperation across multiple sectors in recent months. In July, the two countries concluded the second round of

negotiations for the proposed India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA), reaffirming their commitment to work towards an early conclusion of a balanced, comprehensive and mutually beneficial agreement aimed at strengthening bilateral trade, investment and economic ties.

The strategic partnership between the two nations was elevated earlier this year during PM Modi's two-day State Visit to Israel in February at the invitation of Prime Minister Netanyahu.

During the visit, the two leaders had recalled PM Modi's landmark visit to Israel in 2017 and Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to India in 2018, noting that the two visits laid the foundation for a new era of bilateral cooperation.

Recognising the significant progress made in areas such as emerging tech

Cont. on P9 >

Taxation Bill passed

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill without a debate due to persistent sloganeering by the Opposition over various issues, including alleged theft of donation at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

After the passage of the bill, through which the government also amended the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the House was adjourned for the day.

Through the Bill, the government seeks to attract more foreign capital, pro

Cont. on P9 >

Cabinet clears Rs 23,731 cr GOBARdhan scheme

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: The cabinet today approved a unified circular bioenergy scheme with an outlay of Rs 23,731 crore aimed at boosting biogas production in the country.

The GOBARdhan scheme will be implemented from 2026-27 to 2035-36 and will establish compressed biogas as a major pillar of India's future energy mix, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing.

The scheme aims to transform the country's abundant agricultural residue, cattle dung, press

Cont. on P9 >

Oppn MPs protest in Par complex

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: Opposition MPs protested in Parliament House complex on Thursday against the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and "police excesses" against student protesters.

Amid rain, the MPs, carrying umbrellas and placards against the government, protested in front of the Makar Dwar of Parliament with slogans such as 'chhanda chor, gaddi chor', 'Amit Shah jawaab do' and 'chanda chor kahan milenge, BJP ke daftaar mein'.

The MPs also kept a donation box at the spot to sym-

Cont. on P9 >

Omar visits flood-hit Rajouri, assures enhanced relief

Directs to provide 5 marlas of land to affected people

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 06

cise in Poonch district, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive tour of flood-hit areas of the neighbouring Rajouri district, where he assured the affected families enhanced relief and rehabilitation.

He visited the worst-affected areas and assessed the damage caused by the recent devastating flash floods triggered by torrential rains.

The CM assured the affected people that every possible assistance would be extended to ensure timely relief, rehabilitation of families and restoration of infrastructure.

During the visit, he met the family of Abdul Ghani, a Jal Shakti (PHE) daily-wage worker who lost his life after being swept away by flash floods while on night duty at a water sup-



ply pumping station at Kote Behrote, Thana- mandi. Expressing his heartfelt condolences, he conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved family and assured them of the government's full support.

At the dak bungalow, Omar met the families of Javed Iqbal of Kandi Budhal block, Vikas Choudhary of Panchayat Bagla in Qila Darhal block, Shahida Parveen of Bhat-

ian village and Pinky Singh, wife of Bablu Singh of Sunderbani. He expressed profound grief over the losses suffered by them, conveyed his condolences, and assured them that the government would stand by them during this difficult time.

He later inspected the damaged Circular Road at Rajouri, where nearly 200 mt of the stretch was

Cont. on P9 >

LS passes Bill to allow charges on UPI transactions

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: Lok Sabha today passed a Bill to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 that authorises the government to permit banks and other service providers to levy charges on payments through unified payments interface (UPI) and other notified electronic payment modes.

The amendment passed by the House without discussion amid din seeks to remove the existing legal provision that prevents banks and payment service providers from charging

Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on notified electronic payment modes.

Real-time payments made through RTGS and NEFT are done by paying a service charge. However, UPI transactions have been exempted from such charges so far.

The proposed changes in Payment and Settlement Systems Act is a part of comprehensive legislation on taxation, which was introduced in the House on Tuesday.

The Bill was passed through voice vote in the Lok Sabha after the House

resumed at 2 pm after the earlier adjournment.

As soon as the House re-assembled, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 further to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and the Income Tax Act, 2025, and to amend the Finance Act, 2026, to be taken into consideration.

The government's approach aims to levy small charge on digital payment services for consumers and small businesses while en

Cont. on P9 >

Amarnath Yatra resumes, 1,801 pilgrims leave for valley base camps

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 06

After remaining suspended for a day due to security reasons, the Amarnath Yatra resumed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here today, with 1,801 pilgrims leaving for the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas.

The yatra was suspended yesterday as a precautionary measure on the eve of seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

More than 4.71 lakh pilgrims had so far performed darshans of the naturally formed ice-Shivalingam in Himalayas.

According to officials, the 28th batch of 1,801 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp under tight security at about 2.45 am.

No convoy was dispatched for the Pahalgam route as the necessary repair work on it was still in progress, officials said.

The batch comprised 1,347 men, 351 women, 89 sadhus and 14 sadhvis, travelling in 74 vehicles,

the officials added. With the latest batch, the total number of pilgrims who had so far departed from Jammu for the yatra this year had reached 1,43,513, officials said.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route

Cont. on P9 >

China-Japan tensions escalate

Tokyo labels Beijing as its 'greatest strategic challenge'

BEIJING, AUG 06: China has lodged a "serious diplomatic" protest with Japan over its latest defence white paper, which portrayed Beijing as Tokyo's "greatest strategic challenge" and made "brazen comments" on Taiwan, further escalating tensions between the two countries.

"The white paper once again targeted China with groundless accusations, rehashing the so-called 'China threat' and grossly interfering in China's internal affairs with brazen comments

on China's Taiwan region," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jing said on Wednesday.

"We deplore and firmly reject this, and have lodged serious representations with Japan," he said while answering questions over Japan's new defence white paper.

Defending recurring military drills around Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, Lin said, "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Taiwan question is entirely

China's internal affair. How to resolve it is a matter for the Chinese ourselves and Japan is in no place to interfere."

About disputed islands in the East China Sea, he said, "Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands have been China's territory since ancient times."

The islands, called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu Dao by China, are controlled by Tokyo. The Chinese coast guard periodically conducts patrols

Cont. on P9 >

