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Is HM in search of 'super-tainted' 2/3rd majority to get delimitation-linked bill passed, asks Cong

P-7

Kunal Kemmu, Sparsh Shrivastava & Preity G Zinta lead VIBE's chaos

P-10





1ST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

7-10 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Pak drone sighted near IB

A Pak drone was sighted near the International Border in Bobiyan area of Kathua's Hiranagar sub-sector this morning, following which a search operation was launched in the area by security forces.

The drone was sighted hovering over forward villages of Bobiyanat about 10.35 am, officials said and added that it flew back to Pakistan after a few min

Cont. on P9 >

House gives way to heavy rains

An abandoned house gave way to heavy rains in city's Shaheedi Chowk area this morning but there were no casualties.

The house belonged to Rajni Salotra. Officials said she along with her family had shifted to rented accommodation in the locality a few months ago after cracks developed in

Cont. on P9 >

Govt pushes states to speed up PNG adoption

The Petroleum Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with gas distributors and oil marketing companies.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary

Cont. on P9 >

Doval to visit China for boundary talks with FM Wang



BEIJING, AUG 23: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Monday to take part in the India-China Special Representatives (SR) talks on the boundary issue with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Doval and Wang are scheduled to hold the 25th

Cont. on P9 >

Anti-narcotics drives to begin from Sept

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Anti-drugs trafficking agencies will launch a year-long national enforcement drive from September to apprehend absconding narcotics offenders, inspect medical shops for diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and prisons as part of an action plan to dismantle syndicates dealing in drugs trafficking.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has recently written to all the states and various central agencies tasked to fight drug crimes asking them to undertake

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Progress in action

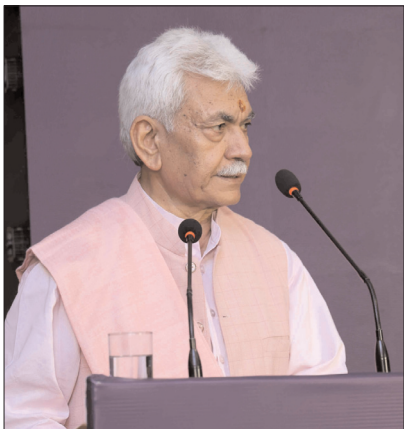
'Viksit Bharat' seed has sprouted, historic milestones achieved: LG

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Asserting that India's journey towards becoming a developed nation must be inclusive, LG Manoj Sinha today said that the 'Viksit Bharat' seed had already sprouted and historic milestones had been achieved in the past 12 years.

"India's journey towards becoming a developed nation must be inclusive, rooted in tradition yet forward-looking, and balanced between technological strength and human sensitivity," he said while addressing World Wisdom Forum, where he shared his vision for Viksit Bharat.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the seed of Viksit Bharat has already sprouted and historic milestones have been achieved in the past 12 years," the LG said.

At the World Wisdom Forum, or-



ganised by IIT Alumni Council, he felicitated achievers from diverse sectors, and congratulated the council for its efforts in bringing together eminent personalities to deliberate on the theme of Viksit Bharat and India's collective future.

Cont. on P9 >

India capable of becoming global shipbuilding hub: Rajnath

KOLKATA, AUG 23: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that India is capable of becoming a global shipbuilding hub, taking advantage of a "vacuum" occurring in the industry among the traditional shipbuilding countries.

He was addressing a gathering here after virtually laying the foundation stone for five expansion projects of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, and Yantra India Ltd.

He also said that rapid de-



velopments were taking place in shipbuilding technology.

Traditional manufacturers were slowly bringing down production, and India can capture this opportunity, Singh said.

"India is capable of seizing this opportunity to become a global shipbuilding hub," the defence minister said.

The country has a large workforce, steel companies and the will power to adapt to new technologies, said Singh, who was accompanied by Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari during the foundation-laying ceremony in Kolkata.

Singh said foundation was laid for five projects worth nearly Rs 3,500 crore

Cont. on P9 >

PM hails India's space journey



NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday greeted the nation on National Space Day, lauding India's expanding space capabilities and urging the country to dream bigger, innovate further and explore new frontiers.

Cont. on P9 >

Destroyed during Op Sindoor, JeM's Bahawalpur base rebuilt

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Jaish-e-Mohammed terror outfit's base at Bahawalpur in Pakistan, which was destroyed by India during Operation Sindoor in May last year, has been completely rebuilt, according to a report which cites visuals from the site.

As per the visuals, the JeM camp, located in Pakistan's Punjab province, has been restored with new marble, fresh paint and plaster 15 months after the Indian armed forces struck the terror outfit's headquar-

ters. The Indian Air Force had struck the JeM's headquarters on May 7, 2025, in retaliation to the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack that had led to the massacre of 25 Hindu holiday- ers and a local.

The structure was now said to have been refurbished, effectively concealing the damage caused by the strikes during Operation Sindoor.

Meanwhile, damaged structures adjoining the main complex had also

been cleared, with new construction coming up in their place. Among the damaged buildings were the Madrasa Al-Sabir and residential quarters used by JeM commanders.

PKR 25 crwas allegedly given in cash instalments for the restoration of the base, India Today reported citing intelligence inputs. According to the report, impact craters in the central hall of the base were filled and the damaged domes rebuilt. Around PKR 11 crore

Cont. on P9 >

Nabin holds strategy meet



NEW DELHI, AUG 23: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Sunday held an intensive meeting with the party office bearers to discuss a range of organisational matters, especially the strategy for high-stakes assem-

Cont. on P9 >

Adjourned, not prorogued Monsoon Session of Par awaits formal closure

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Ten days after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die, the Monsoon session is yet to end formally, giving rise to speculation that the government wants to pass a key legislation without convening a new session.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die (for an indefinite period) on August 13. Usually, the session is

Cont. on P9 >

"We know how to deal with it"

Araghchi dismisses Trump's sanctions threat as 'old bullying tactic'

TEHRAN, AUG 23: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday dismissed renewed US threats of economic sanctions as a "recurring scenario," stating that Washington has no choice but to speak respectfully to the Iranian nation.

According to state broadcaster IRIB, speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony, Araghchi said that Washington's resort to economic pressure demonstrates desperation following failed measures.

"America has no choice but to speak respectfully to the Iranian people," Araghchi declared in comments broadcast by IRIB.

Rebuffing claims of new



American economic manoeuvres, Araghchi described Washington's approach as a familiar routine that Tehran is fully prepared to counter.

"The economic operation that Trump claims is a recurring scenario and the same old bullying in American politics. In a sense, it is a recurring movie that we

have watched many times and we know how to deal with it," IRIB cited him as saying.

Araghchi emphasised that Washington's return to economic pressure tactics highlights its inability to counter Iran's national resilience:

"The fact that they have returned to the same old plans after the military operations and the fact that we are doing this and that shows that they are desperate. They cannot think of any solution against the great nation of Iran and they are constantly putting repetitive plans into action," he said.

Cont. on P9 >

'Suspension of trade talks'

US seeking to restrict Canada's leverage unacceptable: Carney

OTTAWA (CANADA), AUG 23: Canadian PM Mark Carney has hit out at the US following suspension of trade talks, stating that the new terms by Washington DC were "uneconomic, unfair, and undermined the net benefits for Canada".

He said the US demands revealed the limits of their commitment to a true economic partnership and he had directed the country's



negotiators to return to Ot-

tawa. The Canadian Prime

Minister also said his country will match the United States' new tariffs dollar-for-dollar to protect Canadian workers, farmers, families and businesses, after trade negotiations between the two countries collapsed.

Carney said the US asked too much and offered too little.

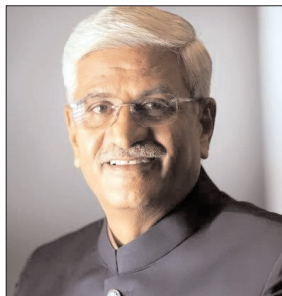
He said Ottawa felt that the two countries were moving towards a mutually

Cont. on P9 >

Space, AI, other tech integration to shape India's future: Shekhawat

AHMEDABAD, AUG 23: Union Culture & Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Sunday said the convergence of streams like space technology, AI, quantum technologies, robotics, semiconductors and high-performance computing will determine a nation's geopolitical positioning.

"Private participation in the space sector does not mean reducing the importance of entities like ISRO," he said while speaking here on the 3rd National Space



Day.

"Privatisation of space is the "democratisation of space opportunities," Shekhawat asserted at the event, organised by the Space Applications Centre

(SAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Science.

"Today is the age of space technology, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, robotics, humanoids, advanced materials, semiconductors and high-performance computing, he said, adding that life will certainly be transformed in the coming years," he said.

"Just as science is ultimately integrating in the form of a pyramid, in the

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Cargo vessel sinking tragedy

3 ships deployed in search for 22 crew members off Odisha coast

NEW DELHI, AUG 23: Three ships have been deployed by the Indian Coast Guard to intensify search for crew members of Panama-flagged bulk carrier which sank in the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast on Saturday.

The vessel, MV Ocean Winner, lost communication with the base, triggering a major search and rescue operation by the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy.

MV Ocean Winner was carrying 20 Chinese, three Myanmar and one Bangladeshi on board.

In the immediate search launched, two

sailors were found alive on a life raft on Saturday night.

The ICG has now deployed three ships to conduct surface searches for the remaining crew members, it said in a post on X on Sunday.

The ICG ships are 'Varad', 'Anmol' and 'Vijit', the ICG official said.

The ship had left the Odisha coast on Friday and was carrying iron ore bound for Singapore. The Coast Guard received information about the loss of communication with MV Ocean Winner before the vessel

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