



Saxena inaugurates Zanskar Festival



LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today inaugurated the 11th Ladakh Zanskar Festival, a vibrant celebration of the rich culture, distinct identity and immense tourism potential of Zanskar region.

The two-day festival, held amid vibrant cultural celebrations and enthusiastic participation from local communities, is the first edition of the festival

VDG injured in accidental firing

A Village Defence Guard was injured after his weapon went off accidentally during patrolling in Majaltawoods of Udhampur district late last night.

According to officials, VDG Parshotam Lal was part of a night patrol in his native Chore Panjani village, Majalta, when his weapon went off accidentally, causing gunshot injuries in his abdomen. He was immediately

Ex-ACR booked in Gair Mumkin Khad land case

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a former assistant commissioner (revenue), Jammu, for allegedly granting illegal permission for the transfer of Gair Mumkin Khad land at Chowadi&Deelin Jammu.

According to officials, ACB registered the FIR at its police station (central), Jammu, against Nisar Ahmad Shad, then ACR, Jammu, and four private beneficiaries.

The FIR was registered

Govt sets 0.4 pc fee on UPI payments above Rs 2,000

NEW DELHI, SEP 15: Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the government on Tuesday introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth more than Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions as well as small payments from any charge.

"Customers will not be required to pay any charge when making such payments through UPI," the finance ministry said in a statement, adding, "MDR is a charge within the merchant payment ecosystem. It is not a charge on cus

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Meta to report child safety cases to cyber crime portal

NEW DELHI, SEP 15: Meta has agreed to directly report child safety-related cases in India to the cyber-crime portal managed by the Indian Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre (I4C).

The development comes amid growing scrutiny of social media platforms by the Indian government over child sexual abuse material (CSAM), deepfakes and other harmful content.

"Protecting children on our platforms is a priority for the company," a Meta spokesperson said, adding that the company was committed to working with the government to ensure perpetrators were held respon

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Huma Qureshi at Emmys: Actress makes glamorous appearance, hails new era for Indian talent

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'Strategic edge'

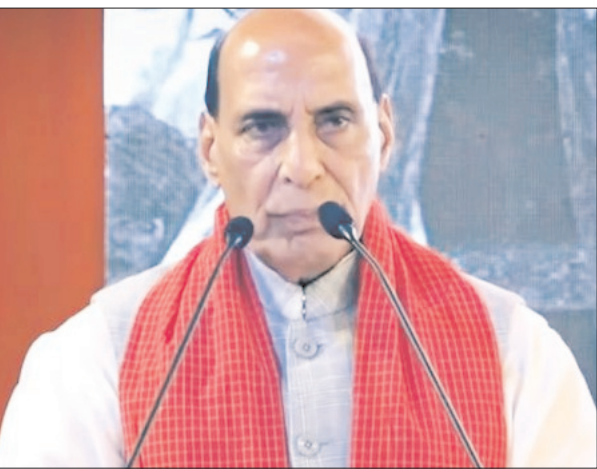
Tech supremacy to determine future combat horizon: Def Min

NEW DELHI, SEP15: Asserting that "our imagination of today will become tomorrow's military capabilities", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that technological leadership would determine strategic advantage in future warfare.

"The vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is not just about building an economically strong India but a 'technologically self-reliant, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and strategically secure India'," he said while addressing a DRDO-hosted event here.

"The defence sector is the cornerstone of this vision," Singh said.

"By 2047, we have to achieve self-reliance in critical technologies, significant



increase in indigenous content, multi-fold growth in defence exports, and we will have to ensure strong presence of India in global supply chain," he said.

"All this cannot be achieved without collaboration," he said, urging greater partnership among all stakeholders in the sec-

tor. The DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet -- 'Vimarsh 2026' -- was hosted at the DRDO Bhawan here.

Singh said the partnership between the DRDO and industry should not be limited to production but should extend to research, design, testing, certification

'Not knee-jerk responses'

India's strategic interests best served by 'considered calculation': EAM

NEW DELHI, SEP 15: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today said India's strategic interests amid global turbulence were best served by "considered calculation" rather than knee-jerk responses, stressing the need to continuously assess and fine-tune the country's strategy as it navigates an increasingly complex international landscape.

He highlighted the challenges posed by ongoing conflicts, economic volatility, tariffs, dumping and the broader "weaponisation of everything", saying India must continually adapt as



its interests and global responsibilities expand.

"There are two major conflicts currently underway, one in the Gulf and the other in Ukraine. In each case, India has good ties with all the parties involved. Forging an approach is therefore not easy. How to balance out the various equities is a legitimate subject of

conversation. The global economy is witnessing the weaponisation of everything. We are also seeing greater volatility in tariffs and increased dumping on other markets. How could that be best countered?" Jaishankar said while addressing the 25th anniversary celebrations of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) here.

He said India's expanding interests, wider global exposure and growing network of partnerships require sustained efforts to respond to a rapidly changing international environment.

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Bring UCC Bill in Par if you have numbers: Omar to BJP

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 15

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said instead of pushing it through individual states, BJP should introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in Parliament if it had the numbers to pass it. He also called the Pahalgam terror attack condemnation by BRICS a success of India's foreign policy.

"If you have the numbers, bring it to Parliament. Why are you doing it through different states? Anyway, within their own NDA, not



everyone agrees with this. According to the news, Janata Dal (United) raised their hands and said this won't be implemented in Bihar," he said while speaking to reporters.

Abdullah said the BJP should not bring the UCC "through the backdoor".

"The way their own allies

are not in favour of it, I don't think they will be able to get it passed in Parliament. That is perhaps why they are taking this route," he added.

Abdullah said the UCC would not be "universal" if implemented only in states ruled by the BJP, as the party does not govern all the states in the country.

"The whole country is not a BJP-ruled state. There are a number of states and territories that the BJP does not rule. Therefore, if you apply it only to BJP states, it is not a universal law. And, something that is of this nature

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India, US kick off military exercise focused on high-altitude warfare

NEW DELHI, SEP 15: India and the United States have begun 22nd edition of their joint military exercise in the mountains of Uttarakhand, bringing around 1,200 troops together for two weeks of high-altitude and multidomain warfare training.

The two-week exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 opened at Uttarakhand's Auli on Tuesday, with US soldiers from the 11th Airborne Division joining Indian Army personnel for drills designed to sharpen battlefield coordination and strengthen the two countries' defence partnership.

The exercise is aimed at

improving battlefield readiness, strengthening interoperability and allowing the two forces to develop common operating procedures through realistic training.

"Over the next two weeks, US and Indian soldiers will train together, sharing skills, building readiness, and improving collaboration between our forces," US Ambassador to India Sergio Gora said on X.

The US Embassy in India said the exercise would combine field training, live-fire drills and exchanges of military expertise and experience. It said Yudh Abhyas 2026 would focus on emerging security chal-

lenges while further strengthening the US-India defence partnership.

The exercise will feature a wide range of activities, including a brigade-level command post exercise, field training, expert discussions, mountain warfare and cold-weather operations.

Troops will also conduct counter-unmanned aircraft system training at Auli. Live-fire exercises involving the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, Stinger systems and the Mobile Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defeat System,

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and the entire manufacturing value chain.

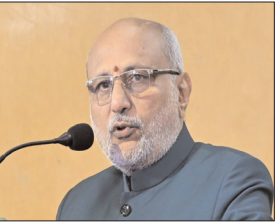
Along with big industries, MSMEs and start-ups should also be made an integral component of the value chain, he said.

The defence minister said emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and drones, would play a crucial role in future warfare and urged the sector to accelerate technological innovation.

"Today, we are seeing how AI can be used to render an image which seems to be of the 80s (referring to the viral 'in the 80s' AI-driven trend online). Joy would be when you can present an image of the future 40-50 years ahead," Singh said.

He urged stakeholders in the Indian defence sector to

India global voice for peace: VP



NEW DELHI, SEP15: Asserting that India had become a global voice for peace, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan today asserted that "human peace" and "humanity peace" were more important than a single country's gain and there was a need to work on the principle.

He also said that India had now emerged as a global voice for peace, progress and prosperity.

The vice-president said the landscape of Indian

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Iran rejects any talks with US

TEHRAN, SEP 15: Iran's security chief on Tuesday rejected any talks with the United States after President Donald Trump said he was open to resuming discussions on the Middle East war.

"Don't get distracted by these space-control capabilities is fundamental to ensuring that we prevent deterrence from failing, and that we are postured and ready should deterrence fail to employ them effectively," Richard Palmer, the director of Capability and Resource Integration Directorate at US Space Command, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a space-defence conference hosted by

Trump on Monday said

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Gen Z, Gen Alpha must put nation first: FM



CHENNAI, SEP 15: Calling upon the "Gen Z" and "Gen Alpha" generations to assume leadership and shoulder responsibility, Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday urged young graduates to put the nation first and ask what they can contribute to the country rather than asking what the country has

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Autumn Session of Legislative Assembly

Speaker reviews preparations, calls for meticulous planning



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 15

Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rathertoday convened a meeting with senior officers to review and finalise the arrangements for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Autumn Session of the assembly, scheduled to commence from September 21in Srinagar.

"The successful conduct of the legislative session re-

quires close coordination, advance planning and a high degree of administrative preparedness across all concerned departments," he said while addressing the meeting.

Describing the forthcoming autumn session as a short session carrying a major responsibility, the Speaker stressed that every aspect of the arrangements must be accorded due importance.

He cautioned the officers against taking any matter

lightly, observing that "small issues can create big problems" if not addressed in time.

He held detailed discussions on various arrangements and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments. Security arrangements figured prominently during the meeting.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure comprehensive and fool-proof security arrange

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'Major success'

MEA hails over 50 successful outcomes during India's BRICS Chairship

NEW DELHI, SEP15: Hailing the 18th BRICS Summit as a "major success," the Ministry of External Affairs highlighted India's diplomacy in forging consensus among diverse member nations on critical global issues, while announcing over 50 action-oriented outcomes spanning innovation, trade, and development.

Summarising the achievements of the high-level gathering in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal noted that the adopted New Delhi Declaration reflects a shared

commitment among member states to champion the Global South and reform multilateral institutions.

"As you've seen, this summit was a major success. We were able to forge consensus among partners, among all BRICS members, on some of the most contentious issues. BRICS has come out with a declaration which has several outcomes-over 50 outcomes are there. There is an agreement, and all member countries in their national statements spoke about reforming global governance, spoke about

strengthening multilateralism, and talked about giving more weight, more voice to the aspirations of the Global South," the spokesperson stated during a press briefing.

Underscoring India's diplomatic reach, the spokesperson highlighted the wide international participation at the summit, which brought together leaders from across the globe.

"There was very strong language on terrorism; the joint statement has unequivocally condemned

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US confirms deployment of space-based weapons for first time

Cites threat from adversaries

WASHINGTON, SEP 15: The US Air Force chief's acknowledgment this week that the Pentagon has weapons in orbit is a "landmark" moment in the rising militarisation of space aimed at deterring aggression against Washington's allies and economic interests.

US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink at a conference in Washington said Washington "has on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action," the strongest admission yet by a Pentagon

official on US weapons in space amid rising space tensions with Russia and China.

"The acknowledgment of these space-control capabilities is fundamental to ensuring that we prevent deterrence from failing, and that we are postured and ready should deterrence fail to employ them effectively," Richard Palmer, the director of Capability and Resource Integration Directorate at US Space Command, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a space-defence conference hosted by

consulting-firm Novaspace in Paris, Palmer added that there are "some actors across the globe who are very much interested in undermining the collective interests of the countries and allies gathered here in this audience and across Europe and the rest of the world."

He declined to discuss the nature or capability of those weapons.

"The bottom line is that our joint force and our allied forces require space. Our economies require space," added Palmer. "We are ready in the US to preserve

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BRICS Summit reflects India's growing diplomatic strength: Kavinder

JAIPUR, SEP15: Stating that BRICS summit had reflected India's growing diplomatic strength, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today called upon youth to uphold the values of the Constitution, strengthen democratic traditions and play a proactive role in nation-building, stressing that young people were not merely the leaders of tomorrow but active stakeholders in India's democratic journey today.

Addressing the 31st National Session of Bharatiya Yuva Sansad held here on the occasion of International Day of Democracy, he appreciated the participation of young representa-



tives from 26 states in meaningful deliberations on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.

"Such platforms reflect the vitality, inclusiveness and progressive character of India's democracy," Gupta said.

Recalling his long association with Bharatiya Yuva

Sansad since its inception in 1999, he said the initiative has, particularly since 2002, played an important role in familiarising young people with the Constitution, nurturing democratic values and sensitising them to the challenges confronting the

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