



HC sends Kathua judge on deputation to Ladakh

The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has placed Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua, Jatinder Singh Jamwal on deputation to the Union Territory of Ladakh following a request from the Ladakh government.

His services were placed at the disposal of the UT of Ladakh for further adjustment in the department of law & justice.

The judge will hand over charge of his present post after the deputation order is issued by the Ladakh administration. In

Cont. on P9 >

Teacher suspended over girl student's 'harassment'

A government school teacher has been placed under immediate suspension, following allegations of harassment of a female student in Jammu's Ramban district.

The action was taken against Raiz Ahmed, posted at the government high school, Harroge, in zone Gool, following a formal report submitted by an inquiry committee constituted on September

Cont. on P9 >

Saxena inaugurates LRLM-SARAS Mela



LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today inaugurated the Ladakh Rural Livelihood Mission (LRLM)-SARAS Mela, organised to give women Self Help Groups (SHGs) a strong platform to showcase and market their products, access new markets, and strengthen their livelihoods.

The mela, held in Leh

Cont. on P9 >

Actor Anant Nag to get Dadasaheb Phalke Award



NEW DELHI, SEP 16: The government today said that legendary actor Anant Nag, known for his impressive work in Hindi and Kannada cinema in movies such as "Minchina Ota", "Hamsageethe", "Ankur" and "Manthan", will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024.

With a filmography of

Cont. on P9 >

UPI MDR may attract 18 pc GST

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: Merchants would have to pay 18 per cent GST on the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges for UPI payments above Rs 2,000, but can claim input tax credit (ITC), thereby easing the overall tax burden, tax experts said on Wednesday.

Effective October 15, UPI payments to merchants (P2M) above Rs 2,000 will attract a 0.4 per cent merchant discount rate with an overall cap of Rs 300. Besides, a flat concessional MDR rate of Rs 5 would be applicable on specific merchant categories such as railways, telecom services, insurance, and fuel for transaction above Rs 2,000.

Cont. on P9 >



The Himalayan Mail

www.himalayanmail.com

JAMMU, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

RNI No. 66860

Vol. 31

No. 256

12 Pages

Rs. 2.00

Govt fully committed to foreign policy with national interests at its centre: Nepal's FM

P-7

Kareena Kapoor Reveals Why She, Saif Ali Khan 'Fight' About Work: 'I'm Instinctive, He Likes To Prepare'

P-10



MHA declares 'Shahzad Bhatti Network' terrorist outfit under UAPA

Says it acts as ISI proxy

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: To curb the expanding network of ISI-backed gangster Shahzad Bhatti, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has declared the Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

From a local criminal to stooge of ISI involved in "hybrid terrorism", Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti over the years built a cross-border arms and narcotics smuggling network. He also happened to be a key man behind the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022.

The MHA move comes after more than 200 people were arrested across 14

states in connection with 80 FIRs, thwarting the ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network's alleged plans to carry out "subversive attacks" ahead of Independence Day.

A multi-state operation was carried out on August 12, using a real-time intelligence-sharing system in co-ordination with state police forces.

According to an MHA statement, substantial recoveries were made including IEDs, grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, pistols, live cartridges and CCTV cameras allegedly used for espionage. Cumulatively, more than 80 FIRs were registered under UAPA, BNS, Arms Act, NDPS Act and Explosive Substances Act.

Bhatti, 45, a resident of Lahore, currently in Dubai, is an absconding suspect in many Indian investigations. According to sources, Bhatti is affiliated with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and acts as a "proxy" for the agency, orchestrating cross-border terror modules and commanding a smuggling syndicate involving arms, narcotics and hand grenades.

His links to the 2022 murder of Moosewala and rivalry with groups linked to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi form a key part of his criminal trail, they said.

Bhatti was accused of supplying the weapons used in the singer's assassination, sources said. He was also involved in the 2024 murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique, with sources saying he assisted Zeeshan Akhtar, a key conspirator in the case, in fleeing India and settling in Azerbaijan.

Bhatti had also claimed responsibility for a grenade attack at the residence of YouTuber Rozar Sandhu in Jalandhar on March 15, 2024, because Sandhu had spoken against Islam.

His name was also linked to a bomb blast at Baldev Nagar Police Station in Ambala district on January 10, 2026, and two low-intensity blasts at BSF headquarters in Jalandhar and Amritsar Cantonment on May 5, 2026, sources said.

Bhatti uses social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook, to influence and recruit unemployed Indian youth for criminal activities.

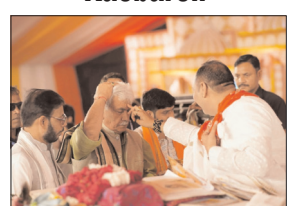
The MHA notification states: "Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) is involved in

Cont. on P9 >

ing India and settling in Azerbaijan.

Bhatti had also claimed responsibility for a grenade attack at the residence of YouTuber Rozar Sandhu in Jalandhar on March 15, 2024, because Sandhu had spoken against Islam.

His name was also linked to a bomb blast at Baldev Nagar Police Station in Ambala district on January 10, 2026, and two low-intensity blasts at BSF headquarters in Jalandhar and Amritsar Cantonment on May 5, 2026, sources said.



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 16

LG Manoj Sinha today attended Shri Shiv Mahapurran Katha at Raebareli, saying the divine teaching of Almighty Shiva is a sacred pilgrimage for the seekers of truth.

He attended the kathain the presence of Pt Pradeep Mishra. Sinha extended heartfelt gratitude to Uttar Pradesh

Cont. on P9 >

Tax policy research should enter public discourse: FM



BENGALURU, SEP 16: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today called for independent research on tax policy to become part of public discourse, saying tax professionals must look beyond sectoral interests and put the national interest first.

Cont. on P9 >

Pak extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft

ISLAMABAD, SEP 16: Pakistan on Wednesday extended the airspace ban for Indian aircraft for another month, according to the country's airports authority.

Pakistan and India imposed matching airspace restrictions on each other's airlines after the Pahalgam terrorist attack in April 2025.

"Pakistan airspace not available for Indian registered aircraft and aircraft operated/owned or leased by Indian airlines/operators, including military flights," a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) said.

Cont. on P9 >

'No legal basis, completely unacceptable' India rejects 'so-called' Pak-China boundary commission

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: India today rejected the so-called Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, asserting that it had no legal basis and that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were integral and inalienable parts of the country.

India's position on the matter is clear & consistent," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while responding to media queries here.

There was no boundary between Pakistan and China, he added.

"We reject the so-called joint commission, which is without any legal basis," Jaiswal said.

"The body has no legal basis and that Islamabad cannot finalise arrangements concerning Indian territory under its illegal occupation," he added.

The external affairs min-

istry outlined India's position hours after the so-called "Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission" held its first meeting in Islamabad to discuss enhanced cooperation in border management, joint border surveys and trade.

India has long accused Pakistan of occupying parts of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir since the 1947-48 war. India has also accused Pakistan of illegally ceding territories such as Aksai Chin and Shaksgam Valley to China. New Delhi has also opposed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as part of it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India", he said. "Pakistan has no locus standi to enter

into arrangements concerning Indian territory under its illegal and forcible occupation," he added.

India has "never recognised the so-called 'China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement' of 1963" and has consistently maintained that it is "illegal and invalid", Jaiswal said, referring to the understanding whereby Pakistan ceded parts of Jammu and Kashmir to China.

"We resolutely oppose and reject any attempts to alter the status of these occupied territories or legitimise illegal occupation, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Jaiswal said.

Any "so-called boundary cooperation between China and Pakistan concerning Indian territories" will be completely unacceptable and have "no bearing what

Cont. on P9 >

Iran seeks no more US conflict in talks with China

BEIJING, SEP 16: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi today said Tehran is not interested in continuing the conflict with the US and looks forward to returning to a diplomatic solution, as he held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and briefed him on the latest developments in West Asia.

His visit to Beijing comes in the midst of an escalation of hostilities in West Asia following the military advances made by Yemen's Houthis, formally known as Ansar Allah.

The Iran-aligned Yemeni political and armed movement has stepped up at-

tacks on Saudi Arabia and taken control of the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea.

The Iran-US war has already restricted the movement of ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, causing a widespread energy crisis.

Araghchi's visit also comes days after his well-publicised interactions with Wang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi held from September 12-13.

Araghchi accompanied Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to the summit.

This was Araghchi's fifth visit to China since 2024, reflecting the close ties between Tehran and Beijing.

During the meeting, Wang said both Iran and the US should return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to end the conflict.

He said the continued prolongation of the US-Iran conflict is not in the common interest of the parties concerned and the international community, a readout by the Chinese Foreign Ministry here said.

China encourages Iran and the US to stay rational and exercise restraint, re-

Cont. on P9 >

'Unacceptable conduct' India summons Pak envoy over naval collision, lodges protest

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: India today summoned Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi and lodged a "strong protest" over what the Ministry of External Affairs described as the "unacceptable and unprofessional conduct" of a Pakistani naval unit that led to a collision with an Indian Navy vessel in international waters in Arabian Sea.

The the diplomat was advised to convey to the concerned Pakistani authorities the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents.

"The CDA was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs today and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unacceptable and unprofessional conduct of Pakistani naval units at sea that led to a collision with a unit of the Indian Navy," the MEA said.

"While the incident, which took place in international waters, did not cause any major damage, the conduct of the Pakistani naval ship was in direct contravention of Article 10 of the

agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991," it said.

The agreement is part of the confidence-building measures between the two countries aimed at reducing the risk of misunderstandings and unintended escalation involving their armed forces.

The Charge d'Affaires of India in Islamabad was also instructed to lodge a similar protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan,

Cont. on P9 >

Kavinder pays obeisance at Mumbai Devi, Siddhivinayak temples

MUMBAI, SEP 16: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta paid obeisance at the revered Mumbai Devi Mandir here today and sought the blessings of the Goddess.

He also attended Aarti at the temple and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people.

Later, the governor visited the revered Shri Siddhivinayak Temple at Prabhadevi, Mumbai, and paid obeisance to Almighty Ganesha.

He offered prayers for the progress, prosperity and happiness of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the nation.



The governor said the spiritual traditions of Bharat had played an important role in strengthening the values of compassion, harmony, service and

collective well-being. He prayed for the continued peace, prosperity and development of the country and the well-being of its people.

